



SPEECHES

delivered by

HIS EXCELLENCY

Colonel the Right Hon'ble

Sir Francis Stanley Jackson, P.C., G.C.I.E.,

GOVERNOR OF BENGAL

during

1929-30.

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**Speeches delivered by His Excellency.
Sir Francis Stanley Jackson during
1929-30.**

***His Excellency's Speech at the Legislative
Council on 3rd July, 1929.***

GENTLEMEN,

I have taken advantage of my privilege to come here to-day on the occasion of the first meeting of the newly elected Legislative Council, to offer a welcome to the Members of the Council, and to express the hope that the results of their labours here may prove of satisfaction to themselves, and of benefit to the constituencies they represent, and through them, to the Presidency.

You are shortly to proceed to the election of one of your number, to carry the honourable and responsible duty of presiding over your deliberations, and it is not my intention to stand long between you and the exercise of your responsibility in this respect.

It is, perhaps, desirable that I should make a short statement, without going too deeply into details, upon the circumstances which led me, in pursuance of my prerogative, to dissolve the late Council and order an appeal to the Electorate.

It is a courtesy the Council have a right to expect from me, and what I have to say may have some bearing upon my action in the future.

I should like to make it clear at once, that it was always my desire to avoid any premature dissolution of the Council with all its attendant disturbance

and inconvenience, especially at this time of the year. My endeavour to avoid a dissolution was one of the chief causes for the somewhat sudden decision I found myself obliged to take.

The course of Ministries in Bengal has never run very smoothly. I find that in opening the session of the new Council in January 1927, my predecessor, Lord Lytton, had reason to refer to the appointment of Ministers to take charge of the Transferred Departments of Government. The situation with which he was confronted was different from that in which I found myself placed last April. In his case, for a considerable time, Government had been carried on under the Transferred Subjects—Temporary Administration Rules, and owing to the Council having failed to provide the necessary funds for salaries, which was a definite indication against the appointment of Ministers, the transfer of all the “Transferred Subjects” was suspended by the Governor-General in Council with the sanction of the Secretary of State; whereas the late Council by a large majority had made provision for salaries and thereby indicated a definite desire that Ministers should be appointed.

I think it was in January 1927 that the new Council reversed the decision of the old one and salaries were voted, and when I arrived in Bengal in March 1927, Ministers were functioning.

In August of that year the Ministry was defeated on a vote of ‘no confidence.’ Not without considerable difficulty I succeeded in finding new Ministers in October 1927, who, I had reason to believe, would command the confidence of the Council. The Ministry survived a vote of ‘no confidence’ in

March 1928. On the transfer of one of the Ministers to the Executive Council, a successor was appointed, but in March 1929 the Ministry which had lasted for nearly 18 months fell.

Almost immediately after the defeat of the Ministry the provision of salaries for Ministers, to which I have already referred was voted by a majority of 2 to 1. After continuous effort to find Ministers, I was forced to the conclusion that any I could select to carry the responsibility, could not command sufficient support to assure stability, and it seemed clear to me that my only alternative under these conditions was to dissolve the Council and to order an appeal to the Constituencies.

It was open for me to continue to administer the Transferred Departments under the provisions of the Act and cease to endeavour to find Ministers from amongst the elected members of the Council.

This is the alternative provided for carrying on the Government of this Presidency, if the appointment of Ministers is not possible. It is simple and not ineffective; but I was, and am, convinced, apart from my constitutional obligations, that in the general interest of the administration of the Province, the Transferred Departments should be administered through Ministers directly responsible to this Council, and every effort should be made to this end before resorting to the alternative to which I have referred. I was forced to the conclusion that further efforts to attain this object in the late Council, composed as it was, were useless, but the possibility of a new Council being more favourably disposed towards a Ministry could not be disregarded.

It had been persistently demonstrated for some time that there was considerable difference of opinion within the various groups who might be regarded as supporters of the Constitution, whilst there was unanimity amongst that party who have consistently opposed the appointment of Ministers, and who have been as consistently prepared to join in any attempt to dispose of them.

The position was further complicated by the definite pronouncement of the European members of the Council that they were not prepared any longer to support Ministers who could not be regarded as commanding sufficient backing, to assure a reasonable chance of their being able to carry on the work undisturbed for some time.

It was for me to decide whether such an impasse had arrived as to justify my exercising the prerogative under section 72(B) of the Act, namely, to dissolve the Council and to pursue my endeavours in a new one. It appeared to me that a situation had arisen such as was contemplated by the framers of the Act when this section was inserted.

We meet to-day in the new Council which, as far as I can judge, does not differ greatly in its composition from its predecessor. I have no reason to doubt that this Council, like the last one would favour the appointment of Ministers, but although I desire to proceed according to the Constitution and to appoint Ministers, I feel it would be unwise to make any appointment until I have some definite indication that the persons appointed may feel sure of adequate support.

In accordance with constitutional practice, I approached the leader of that party which, as a

result of the election, possesses the largest and most united number of elected members of this Council. I regret he does not see his way to undertake the responsibility of forming a Ministry and I fear I must take it that his party generally is in opposition to the appointment of Ministers.

If the opposition is successful in preventing the appointment of Ministers, Government must be carried on and all departments will be administered by the Governor with his Executive Council, a proceeding which I do not desire.

On the other hand, I am not without hope that an indication will be forthcoming in the near future that the majority of this Council favour the course of the appointment of Ministers responsible to the Council for the Transferred Departments, and that the required support will be assured, in which case I shall proceed at once with my task.

And now I come to the business which this Council will be asked to deal with in the session beginning early in August. There are some important Bills which are ready for consideration and which deal with Education.

The Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Bill of which the aim is to make better provision for primary education in the rural areas of Bengal, is ready for consideration by the Council. The Bengal Primary Education Act, 1919, made provision for both voluntary and compulsory primary education in Municipalities and certain other areas. The present Bill is a more comprehensive measure dealing with the non-municipal areas of the Province. It provides for the establishment of

District School Boards for the control of primary education in each district, for the levy of a cess to supply funds for essential development, and for the gradual introduction of compulsory education as soon as adequate provision for the needs of each locality is made.

The Bill which was before the last Council at the time of its dissolution, had been examined by a Select Committee of that Council. As far as possible the recommendations of the Select Committee will be embodied in the Bill. It is hoped that this Bill will be brought before the Council for consideration in the August session.

The Calcutta University Bill has been drafted and is at present under examination. The object is to reorganise the University of Calcutta so as to provide for the more effective discharge of all University activities and to co-ordinate undergraduate and Post-Graduate academic work.

A Secondary Education Bill to make provision for the regulation and control of secondary education throughout the Province will also shortly be ready for presentation to the Council.

Other legislative projects ready for consideration by the Council in due course are a Bill to provide for the making and execution of land development and town-planning schemes, and a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the control and sanitation of mining settlements in Bengal.

One of the earliest projects however that will come before the Council is the Bengal Children (Amendment) Bill which aims at so amending the existing Act as to permit of the establishment of a

Central Juvenile Court for Calcutta and the neighbouring area. This Act, I feel, should be assured of general support.

The Council which meets for the first time to-day is the fourth which has been elected in Bengal under the Reforms of 1919. One cannot say whether there will be a fifth Council elected under similar conditions, but in view of the fact that the future constitution for India is to be considered by Parliament in the immediate future, in the light of recommendations of the Commission which lately visited this country, and provided this Council runs its normal course, it is possible that the next Council may be elected under new conditions.

I earnestly hope that the new conditions which may arise as a result of the decision of Parliament will be such as to establish a feeling of good-will and that all parties in Bengal will be ready and eager to shoulder Ministerial responsibility.

Meanwhile I trust that this Council will take full advantage of its opportunities and by promoting useful, practical and well-considered legislation, with a single eye to the general interest of all communities, will be able to improve the general welfare of the Presidency. In this task I pray for the guidance of Divine Providence upon your endeavours.

His Excellency's Speech at the Calcutta Police Parade on 5th July 1929.

GENTLEMEN,

It is always a pleasure for me to attend this Parade of the Calcutta Police, which gives me an opportunity of meeting the force at close quarters. I can congratulate all ranks upon their smart appearance and bearing which are an indication of careful training and individual pride in the force.

The record of service of the Calcutta Police is one of general satisfaction, and each year the public you serve have reason to feel that the confidence they repose on you is well justified.

This last year has been one of continuous and exceptional anxiety for the police. The demonstrations in connection with the arrival of the Simon Commission in India, the presence of the Commission in Calcutta, and a meeting of the all-India Congress in this city, during last Christmas, with its attendant political excitements, were all bound to throw additional work upon the police and give cause for exceptional concern.

It is a matter for congratulation and satisfaction that on all occasions the proceedings were orderly and well-controlled and nothing in the shape of a clash between the police and the demonstrators was recorded. Much credit must be given to the public, but special credit must be given to the police for the patience, forbearance and tact with which they handled the numberless difficult situations which arose at that time throughout the city.

There is one matter in connection with your welfare that I would like to mention. I was pleased that Government last year decided to increase the pay of the Sergeants, the Head Constables and the Constables of the force. This was a just acknowledgment of the services rendered during past years.

I am glad to hear that this consideration has been appreciated and I hope it may add to your contentment, and be an incentive to give of your best.

The responsibilities of the police in a city like Calcutta do not grow less. The demands of the public for their assistance are increasing almost daily. Their chief functions are not confined to the prevention of crime and the restraint of evil-doers. With the rapid increase of motor traffic, a large force is continuously employed to regulate and to make possible, without disaster, the ordinary transport of men and goods from one place to another.

The control of traffic is a very difficult task and the public in this respect are not easy to please. The public should educate themselves here in India, as they have done in England and elsewhere, that it is their duty to assist the police by exercising patience and forbearance and by careful regard for regulations devised for their safety and assistance.

I have just had the pleasure of presenting the Police Medal to one member of the force. The reward was gained by an exceptional act of courage and exemplary devotion to duty which reflect great credit upon the recipient and should be a matter for pride to the force to which he belongs.

In a police force, especially in India, leadership must play a vitally important part. • In this respect I can congratulate all officers, from the Commissioner downwards, upon the way they have invariably handled a very difficult situation. Good leadership assures the confidence of the public, which should be the main objective you should strive to obtain.

I can congratulate the force upon the general efficiency which their record shows and which I have every confidence they will worthily maintain.'

***His Excellency's reply to the Addresses
presented at Faridpur on 8th July
1929.***

GENTLEMEN,

I thank you sincerely for the kind welcome you have extended to Lady Jackson and myself on this occasion of our first visit to Faridpur and I greatly appreciate the addresses which have been presented by the Municipality, the District Board and the Moslem Association. I have been looking forward to my visit to this important District.

One of the first books I read when I came to Bengal was an interesting Monograph by the late Mr. J. C. Jack and there I found a clear description of village life. This was written with direct reference to Faridpur. I gained an insight into village life in Eastern Bengal which has been of great value to me.

I have carefully studied the various subjects and proposals to which you have drawn my attention in the addresses. I have discussed them with my advisers in Government with a view to making myself acquainted with actual conditions, and, if possible, to helping you in finding a satisfactory solution.

I notice that in the addresses of the Municipality and the Moslem Association reference is made to the condition and situation of the Faridpur Railway Station, and also to the need of certain additional railway communication in this district.

As regards the railway station, it appears to be generally admitted that the present station is unsuitable for such an important district town as Faridpur. It is situated too far from the residential portion of the town and, as you mention, the accommodation for passengers at this railway station is inadequate. My Government have approached the railway authorities in this matter and it has now been agreed that a station should be erected on a new site, and funds for this purpose are being provided for in the budget of 1930-31.

As regards the extension of the railway from Faridpur to Bhanga and Madaripur, this project has been engaging the attention of my Government and the Government of India for a considerable time. Recently the Railway Board have sanctioned the construction of a line of railway on the broad-gauge system from Kalukhali to Bhateapara. This line will pass through Habra. The Eastern Bengal Railway authorities are, however, of opinion that an extension of this line to Madaripur would not be justified at present, but the Railway Board have under investigation a project for a light railway from Faridpur via Charmaguria to Barisal with ferries over the larger rivers. My Government will endeavour to impress the Railway Board with the necessity of making a decision regarding the feasibility of this project at the earliest possible moment.

Another subject which is dealt with in the addresses is that of education, with special reference to female education. I appreciate your desire for improved facilities for the education of girls. I sympathise with your request for the raising of

the status of your Girls' School to that of a High English School. I understand that a scheme in this connection was submitted to the Inspectress of Schools of the Dacca Circle, and the Director of Public Instruction has asked for and is now awaiting supplementary information, which, when received, should enable him to complete the scheme which is now under preparation. When the proposals in a complete form come before Government, you may depend upon their receiving sympathetic consideration.

I note with pleasure the desire expressed in the Moslem Association address that the Primary Education Bill, which was before the late Council, may be placed upon the Statute Book. This Bill was considered by a Select Committee of the late Council when a number of amendments were proposed. I hope the Bill will again be brought before the present Council at an early date, modified to some extent as a result of the decisions arrived at in the Select Committee, and I trust that it will receive the approval of the Council and become an Act.

Such an Act should lay the foundation of a Primary Educational system throughout the rural areas of the Presidency, which is so urgently needed and which should prove of inestimable benefit to the millions inhabiting this Presidency.

As regards the apprehension expressed in connection with the additional taxation, which must necessarily go with such a measure, it would be premature for me to comment at this stage, but I shall watch with interest, not free from some anxiety, the decision of the Council on the Bill as amended by the Select Committee of the last Council.

The Moslem Association refer to the need of more encouragement by my Government in connection with Islamic Education and also remind me that the Moslems form 66 per cent. of the total population of this district.

As far as I can judge from my enquiries, there does not appear to be a good reason for supposing that Faridpur has been treated ungenerously in comparison with other districts in respect of grants to Madrassas. The Junior Madrassa at Faridpur was raised to the status of a Senior Madrassa scarcely a year ago. Applications for grants towards buildings and recurring expenses of recognised Madrassas will receive sympathetic consideration, within the limit of funds available for the purpose.

The District Board in their address refer to the Local Self-Government Act of 1885 and pray that steps may be taken to amend this Act and the Village Self-Government Act, so as to remedy the defects which have been revealed as a result of experience.

Government are fully aware of the shortcomings of the Local Self-Government Act and that its amendment is desirable. In view, however, of the larger constitutional issues which are now in front of us, it is I think hardly likely that the question of amending the Act can seriously be taken up at this moment.

With reference to the question of water-supply, mentioned in the District Board address, and the grant of a loan of Rs. 2½ lakhs from Government for the purpose of sinking tube-wells throughout the district, it appears that the proposals of the District Board for expenditure from a loan for water-works

were not in entire conformity with the outline of the scheme as announced by Government. The proposals are at present under examination with a view to determining how far the original scheme should be modified to meet the various suggestions of individual local bodies, and to settling questions of principle involved in the loan. I understand the case is now under the consideration of the Finance Department. In view of the recognized necessity, in the general interest of the health of the people, of an adequate water-supply, any suitable schemes which come before Government are assured of their sympathetic interest.

Government are also earnestly anxious to assist in providing facilities for improving the health of the people. Facilities for medical education in Eastern Bengal are now provided by schools at Dacca and Mymensingh, in addition to which it is hoped that schools at Chittagong and Barisal will be opened within the next few years. It will be necessary to watch carefully the results attained by the new schools before Government can carry further the policy of opening medical schools at district headquarters. I suggest that for the present local enterprise in Faridpur might be usefully devoted to the improvement of the Hospital.

I am glad to observe in the address of the Moslem Association that you appreciate the benefits of the co-operative movement and wisely refer to the necessity and value of constant audit.

It is agreed that the accounts of every Society should be audited by an independent and well-trained staff if public confidence is to be satisfied. The Committee on the co-operative movement

examined this question carefully and recommended that the distribution of the cost of audit should be spread over the Societies and the Central Banks on the basis of working capital. The reasons for this recommendation are obvious. The audit of a Society's accounts affords protection primarily to the members of the Society, against the misconduct or incompetence of its office bearers. It is the members who benefit from this service and, it is in their interest that the staff is maintained. Every sound business should be able to pay for its own audit and co-operative Societies are not an exception to this rule. Government, however, as a special concession, exempts Societies under 18 months old and *anti-malarial* societies are free from payment of fees. It is generally considered that the audit of a healthy society is not a proper charge on public funds.

The final subject which is referred to in the Municipal address is one, as you evidently appreciate, that strongly appeals to me. You state that the ground which you use for foot-ball and games is not available during the rainy season owing to its low-lying level and so its becoming water-logged, and you request that some assistance may be given to raise the ground above the flood-level.

I have made enquiries as to whether this Government land will be required for Government purposes at present. As I find this is not likely to be the case, I am sure Government will put no obstacle in the way of the Commissioner, if he can find the necessary funds, raising this land and making it available for games all the year round. In order to give a start I am prepared to subscribe Rs. 1,000 to this object.

As regards the other land referred to and which you desire to utilise as a public park, here again if the land is not required for Government purposes, I hope it may be possible to lease it to the Municipality for the purpose mentioned. I suggest the Municipality should submit their proposal through the District Officer and you may be assured that such a proposal will receive Government's most careful attention.

I have replied at length to the points raised in your addresses all of which I appreciate are of special interest to you. I should like to congratulate the Commissioners of the Municipality and the members of the District Board upon the way in which they carry the administration of this district. There are plenty of signs of hard work and unselfish endeavour, in the interests of the people to whom you give your service. As we are at present situated in Bengal, I have formed the opinion that the general welfare of all the various communities in towns and villages depends as much upon efficient and honourable local administration as upon any assistance they can rely upon from other quarters.

I beg of you, Gentlemen, to continue your good work which I hope will always prove a source of satisfaction to yourselves as it will be of benefit to the people.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening
of the Lytton Water-works at Faridpur
on 8th July 1929.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am very grateful for this opportunity of taking part in the opening ceremony of these water-works this afternoon.

I have listened with much interest to the speech of the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Ghose, in which he has given an account of the course of events which has led to the completion of the water-supply scheme in Faridpur. It is an interesting story and it is obvious that this scheme would not have materialised, but for the persistent and unselfish efforts of those gentlemen who with great public spirit have worked hard to bring this scheme to a successful issue. I was particularly struck by the response and support the scheme has received from the public who have subscribed Rs. 35,000 to the project. This is a good example of that self-help which inspires the admiration and confidence of Government. The Government have made their contribution towards the scheme gladly, for there is no public enterprise to which they feel they can assist to better purpose than that which assures a good water-supply.

I must also express our appreciation of the generous support you have received from those public-spirited gentlemen, including the Maharaja Bahadur Sir Prodyat Coomar Tagore, whose names you have read out and whose services in this

connection should ever be remembered with gratitude in Faridpur.

There is just one appeal I would make. In view of the experience I have had of other municipalities where good water-works have been installed, the machinery which creates the supply of water requires to be carefully handled and looked after. These machines will help to earn you revenue and if you want this revenue-earning, you will do well to keep your machinery in perfect order. There is sometimes an inclination to borrow the revenue from water-rates for other purposes. Before doing so common prudence demands that you should make the maintenance and up-keep of your works the first charge and never depart from it.

I am pleased to hear that these water-works are to be named after my predecessor in Bengal, Lord Lytton. Such recognition and remembrance of Lord Lytton's services in Bengal are well-deserved. He worked hard for Bengal and his interest in the health of the people was always uppermost in his mind. We all realise that without good water the health of the people is always in jeopardy.

Let me end by offering my congratulations to the Chairman and all those who have carried the responsibility in connection with this water-supply scheme in Faridpur. I feel sure you have reason to be satisfied with your work and you deserve the gratitude of all those who will benefit from your efforts.

I now have much pleasure in declaring the Lytton Water-works open and trust that they will continue successfully to fulfil their purpose.

His Excellency's Addresses to Title-holders who were Invested at the Dacca Durbar on 15th July 1929..

RAI SHASHANEEA KUMAR GHOSH BAHADUR, C.L.E.,

You have held the office of Government Pleader of Dacca for 22 years, the duties of which post you have discharged with conspicuous ability. Since January 1928 you have been Honorary Treasurer of the Dacca University. Despite your arduous professional duties, you have given your time unsparingly to the University which has derived great advantage from your sound and independent judgment.

Your public services in connection with many institutions of social and educational character are well-known and highly appreciated.

In the name of the King Emperor of India and by His Majesty's Command, I now invest you with the Badge of the Order of the Indian Empire, of which Most Eminent Order His Imperial Majesty has been graciously pleased to appoint you to be a Companion.

RAI NRIPENDRA CHANDRA BASU BAHADUR,

In 1924 you were awarded the title of Rai Sahib in recognition of your uniformly good record in the Bengal Civil Service, and your work in connection with the Co-operative movement in this Presidency. Your continuous good work has earned for you the bestowal of the higher distinction upon which I congratulate you.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM,

You were the first President of the Daulatdia Union Board of which you now hold the position of Vice-President. The affairs of the Board have been managed with conspicuous success, in which you have personally played an important part. You have gained the respect of the people of your Union by your energy and public spirit, and the distinction conferred upon you is a fitting recognition of your services.

RAI SAHIB RAJENDRA KUMAR RAY,

You have been President of the Lebutola Union Board since its establishment in 1920 and you are also President of the Bench and Court, both of which positions you have occupied with much credit. You have always lent active support to Government in a remote part of the district of Dacca, regardless of the unpopularity which resulted from such action during the disturbed period of non-co-operation.

The title of Rai Sahib has been conferred upon you in appreciation of your valuable services.

RAI SAHIB JATINDRA MOHAN DUTT

As President of the Khankhanapur Union Board you have conducted its affairs for the last two terms with conspicuous ability and efficiency. During your term of office the excavation of several masonry wells and the sinking of a number of tube-wells have been successfully undertaken and a charitable dispensary and primary schools for boys and girls have been established. You have also

maintained at your own expense a model agricultural farm which has been of great service to the district. Besides your work on the Union Board you have been associated with other useful public institutions as Organiser and Secretary. You enjoy the high esteem of people of all classes and the honour conferred upon you has been well earned.

RAI SAHIB RAJANI KANTA CHAKLADAR,

You have been President of the Khilgaon Union Board since its establishment in 1920. I had the pleasure of personally visiting Khilgaon last year and was much impressed by the orderly and business-like way in which the Union Board was conducted. The successful administration of your Union Board is largely due to your untiring efforts. I congratulate you upon the well-deserved honour which has been bestowed upon you.

His Excellency's Address at the Police Parade, Dacca, on 19th July 1929.

OFFICERS, NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND MEN
OF THE BENGAL POLICE AND EASTERN FRONTIER
RIFLES,

It is always a pleasure to attend this Parade in Dacca which gives me an opportunity of according some public acknowledgment and recognition of the work of the police throughout the Presidency, and at the same time of distributing awards to members of the Force in appreciation of meritorious service.

This is the third time I have had the privilege of attending this Parade. On each occasion I have been able to congratulate the officers and all ranks upon their record and the generally satisfactory standard of their efficiency.

The words I have used have not been mere conventional phrases, but based upon actual reports and records. Further acquaintance with the work of the police throughout Bengal gives me no reason to feel that the praise then bestowed has been unjustified. This does not mean that the Police Forces are beyond criticism. This could not be possible where such a large Force as the Bengal Police, numbering nearly 25,000 is concerned. There are likely to be failings now and then, which are unfortunate, and which cast some discredit upon the Force as a whole, but taking into consideration the conditions under which the police operate, unfortunate occurrences are extraordinarily rare.

The report of the Inspector-General for the year 1928 records improvement not only as regards the discipline and general efficiency of the Force, but also as regards the relations between the police and the public. These relations will still further improve as the public properly appreciate the services which the police render to them, and get away from the fallacious belief that the police are merely the instruments of Government. It is the duty of Government to assure those conditions of service to the police to which their work and responsibilities reasonably entitle them.

Last year I was able to refer to the decision of Government to increase the pay of the Bengal and Calcutta Police, a concession which was overdue and obviously right. The further question of police quarters and accommodation is one which is occupying the attention of Government. There is no doubt this is a matter of considerable urgency and must be dealt with at the earliest moment when financial conditions will permit.

Last year I had to refer to the unfortunate labour disturbances in Lilloah and other places throughout the Presidency. It is satisfactory to be able to record that the past year has been relatively free from similar trouble.

The demands, however, upon the police have been exacting and their duties and responsibilities do not grow less. I should like to make special reference to the officers of all grades upon whom exceptional responsibility continuously devolves. It is bound to be that the smooth working in a Police Force must depend largely upon leadership.

Upon the personal judgment and the decision of the officer in charge, whether it be the Deputy Inspector-General of a Range, the Superintendent of a District, or the Inspector or Sub-Inspector in a Thana, depend order and tranquillity in his charge. I have been greatly impressed by the way in which officers of all ranks appear to appreciate their responsibility, both on duty and off, and the records show that they have carried it well. For this creditable record much is due to their original training. I have visited the Sardah Training College on two occasions. It is well and efficiently conducted and the training which is given there is calculated to turn out good material. I have always felt, when I finished my inspection, that its value might easily be doubled if its scope could be increased, and use made of it for "refresher courses" for all officers of the Force. I believe this is generally agreed to by all who are well acquainted with the College but unfortunately finance stands in the way.

I should like to say one word to the Eastern Frontier Rifles who have their headquarters in Dacca. They are essentially a reserve Force and, as such, must be highly trained and under exceptional discipline. The condition of their service involves spending periods of some months on detachment away from their headquarters where their discipline is on trial and those essential qualities of restraint and self-control are put to the test.

The record of this Force is highly creditable. I am satisfied that no effort will be spared to maintain that state of efficiency which it has shown in the past and, which, the public interest demands.

As recorded in the Inspector-General's report, the relations between the police and the public continue to improve. As I have stated before, the main object of the police must be to gain the confidence of the public whose interests they exist to serve. At the same time the public must regard it as a duty to assist and encourage the police in the discharge of their difficult responsibilities.

I am reminded that this is the last Parade which the Inspector-General, Mr. O'Sullivan, is attending as a member of the Force. He is shortly due to retire after 30 years of exemplary service.

During his long career, he has seen many changes in the Force and it must be highly satisfactory to him, as it is to Government, that he is able to record in his last report that the discipline and the general efficiency of the Force never stood higher. The attainment of such a condition is mainly due to such men as Mr. O'Sullivan, who combines with an exceptional devotion to duty the gifts of courage, consideration and common-sense which are all priceless gifts of any member of a Police Force. Whilst expressing regret that his service will shortly end, we wish him a happy and successful future.

I congratulate the Parade upon their smart and satisfactory appearance and I have confidence that every man will do his best to maintain the highly creditable record which the Bengal Police Force have fairly earned.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Addresses
presented at Comilla on 22nd July
1929.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am very pleased to have the opportunity of visiting Comilla and this district of Tippera and I offer my sincere thanks to the members of the District Board and to the Anjuman-I-Islamia for their addresses and the cordial welcome extended to the Hon'ble Lady Jackson and myself on this occasion.

I acknowledge your expressions of loyalty to the Throne and Person of His Gracious Majesty the King Emperor and your gratitude on His Majesty's recovery from his long and serious illness. It is well-known that the remarkable demonstration of affectionate sympathy of millions of his subjects throughout the world and the knowledge that their earnest prayers were being daily offered for his recovery, greatly strengthened His Majesty during his ordeal.

Gentlemen, I welcome the opportunity of my visits to the various districts of this Presidency as they enable me to gain an insight into local conditions by personal experience, and through first-hand knowledge better to appreciate the problems and difficulties with which you are confronted.

I regret that my first visit here should follow closely upon a disastrous visitation of floods which has caused considerable damage in this district. It is very satisfactory to hear that through the prompt

and energetic action of the local authorities, it has been possible to alleviate the distress caused by the floods. I must express my great appreciation of the generous assistance rendered by His Highness the Maharaja of Tripura, who I understand has provided Rs. 10,000 for gratuitous relief as well as Rs. 40,000 for loans for distribution amongst his tenants in the affected areas. Any measures which can be taken to safeguard against possible recurrence in future must be immediately considered, and the best technical advice which Government can provide will be placed at your disposal.

In the address of the District Board you refer to the necessity for the improvement of the artificial waterways in Tippera, and you remind me of a scheme which was submitted to Government in 1923 with a suggested programme for this purpose. The improvement of the drainage of the district, particularly in the north of Brahmanbaria subdivision both by deepening and keeping open the natural drainage channels, and by making new cuts, is one of the most important problems which confront this district. The north and east of the district are subject to floods from the Tippera hills which cause considerable damage to crops, while a breach of the Goomti embankment, as occurred recently when the flood level of the river rose very high, must always be a source of great anxiety. The waterways problems in this district appear to be inter-dependent, which makes the solution correspondingly difficult.

It appears to me that the District Board should select a few schemes which it considers to be the most urgent, and the Irrigation Department will be

called upon to examine these schemes and report to Government. It seems that the only Act under which you can proceed, with Government assistance, is the Bengal Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement Act. Under this Act the necessary finance by way of loan may be forthcoming from Government. As the welfare of the district is dependent upon some betterment of the present position, I hope you will not delay in putting your schemes before the Irrigation Department.

You draw my attention to certain problems connected with agriculture and the marketing of agricultural produce. You refer specially to the cultivation of jute. The prosperity of Eastern Bengal is largely dependent upon the success of jute growing and the jute manufacturing industry. The interests of those who grow jute and those who handle, transport and manufacture it, must have the constant and careful attention of Government.

The question of regulated markets however opens up a much wider field. Government recognise the difficulty of the small trader in marketing his grain, jute and such crops as oil-seeds. A properly regulated market, I assume, would aim at protecting both the producer and the purchaser, though the difficulties in establishing such a market are considerable. There are throughout the Province a large number of private markets and it would not be easy to adjust the rights of all concerned, if regulated markets be established. The abolition of the rights of private individuals or their private markets without compensation would not receive support.

There is undoubtedly widespread interest in this question and my Government will carefully examine

every suggestion that can be put forward to secure the end desired. Any proposal which your Board desire to place before Government will be welcomed.

In both the addresses reference is made to the Union Boards throughout this district of Tippera. I was reading a report from the Commissioner on the working of the Union Boards of this district. It is very gratifying to note that the general working of the Boards during the past year has been satisfactory. Energy and initiative in the discharge of their duties are apparent and they appear to have gained the confidence of the public and the sympathetic co-operation of the District and Local Boards.

The Union Boards must be the basis of sound local administration and through them will come that awakening of civic consciousness amongst the people in general, and the necessary understanding of the political problems, upon the satisfactory solution of which depend their happiness and prosperity. I have the greatest admiration for those public-spirited gentlemen who give their services in these Union Boards.

You rightly refer to the all-important question of Education. You will appreciate that this is a subject which is at present occupying the anxious and constant attention of Government. I appreciate your interest in the progress of the rural Primary Education Bill which will shortly be considered by the Legislative Council and I hope will eventually be placed upon the Statute Book. It must be generally argued that there is no more urgent need in the general interest of the welfare and progress

of the people of the rural areas of this Province than a sound system of Primary Education.

The Anjuman-I-Islamia in their address express a desire that the Governing Body of the Comilla Victoria College might be reconstituted on the lines adopted in respect to other Government aided colleges in Bengal. I understand the Governing Body of the Victoria College is constituted under a Trust Deed and on more than one occasion the possibility of its reconstitution has been considered. Government have been advised that the Trust Deed cannot be modified and under the Deed only one member not specified therein can be co-opted. At present Khan Bahadur K. G. M. Farouqi is co-opted to represent Muhammadan interests. I understand the question of the reconstitution of the Governing Body of the College is at present under discussion between that Body and the University authorities. Government feel that they have no occasion to intervene, but have made no objection to the existing constitution continuing.

As regards the Hussamia Girls' School, I fear Government do not at present favour provincialisation of primary schools. This would be contrary to the policy with regard to elementary education. I understand that the Hussamia Girls' School is in receipt of a Government grant of Rs. 70. If the school authorities desire to have it increased, they may submit an application to the Inspectress of Schools.

I am deeply interested in the Elliot Technical Institution where you have a centre of training in Engineering of which the District Board may well be proud. You refer to it as a pioneer institution

in East Bengal and you consider that it has assumed an importance which is beyond the ability of your Board to maintain.

Through the co-operation of the Board and the Industries Department the Institution has made good progress. The school receives a grant of Rs. 1,568 through the Department of Industries and in 1927-28 Government provided a capital grant of Rs. 14,000 for development and improvements, together with an additional recurring grant of Rs. 1,532 per annum. The Board has given generous support to the Department in its liberal grants to the School, but it must not be forgotten that the Retrenchment Committee of 1923 recommended that technical education should be fostered by means of a grant-in-aid system. This policy was accepted by Government and it is hardly possible to review that decision at this stage. This does not mean, however, that Government's assistance will not continue. The grants allotted annually for the promotion of technical education have been automatically increased by Rs. 30,000 annually for the past three years, and I feel sure that the Department of Industries will consider sympathetically any request you may make for additional support to develop this Institution. The School owes much to engineering and structural work which is placed in its hands by the District Board, which indicates a genuine desire on the part of the Board to help the School in a thoroughly practical manner.

I am afraid provincialisation of the School cannot be justified in view of the fact that there are only eight boys from outside districts in the School. I am personally most interested in the progress of

technical institutions throughout the Presidency and you may be assured of my personal support for any proposals you may put forward in the interest of technical education.

I think I have dealt with most of the subjects referred to in the addresses. As I said at the commencement of my remarks, I come amongst you to gain acquaintance with you and your problems. I think it is a good thing for the people of the districts that their representatives on local bodies should take advantage of such an occasion as this to explain their wants and difficulties. Your representations shall not be forgotten.

I thank you again for your cordial welcome to the Hon'ble Lady Jackson and myself and I desire to express to you our best wishes for your happiness and prosperity.

***His Excellency's Addresses to Recipients
of Sanads at Comilla on 22nd July
1929.***

RAI JOGESH CHANDRA DATTA BAHADUR, M.B.E.,

For over 22 years you have rendered meritorious service in the Bengal Civil Service from which you have recently retired. During the War you did notably good recruiting work and were awarded a recruiting Badge and for your general valuable services were created a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in 1919.

Your long and exemplary service deserved further recognition and I congratulate you upon the title of Rai Bahadur conferred upon you.

RAI SATISH CHANDRA RAY BAHADUR,

Your record for unselfish public work is highly creditable. For 30 years you have been an Honorary Magistrate and for 25 years a Municipal Commissioner and have been the permanent Secretary and Trustee of the Victoria College, Comilla, since 1921. Your loyal assistance to the Commissioner and the District Officer during the disturbances of 1907 was greatly appreciated. You also did excellent work as Honorary Secretary for the War Relief Fund in 1914. In appreciation of your public spirit and your loyal and disinterested services, the title of Rai Bahadur has been conferred upon you. I congratulate you.

***His Excellency's reply to the Address
Informally presented by the Union
Board Association, Comilla, on 22nd
July 1929.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am very grateful to the members of the Tippera Union Board Association for the welcome they have kindly accorded to me to-day on the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone of their Association building.

I acknowledge with gratitude your expressions of loyalty to the Throne and Person of His Gracious Majesty the King Emperor and your dutiful solicitude for His Majesty's restoration to health after his serious illness.

I am greatly interested in the formation of your Association, the objects of which appear to be wholly admirable. I feel satisfied you are right in your belief that the development of self-governing institutions provides the surest foundation of responsible government.

I fully appreciate the importance of the various subjects you mention in your address, upon the satisfactory solution of which must greatly depend the welfare of the rural population in Eastern Bengal. Education; the reservation of land for grazing purposes, river communications, drainage, danger of insufficient bridging of railway embankments and an adequate supply of drinking water—all these are requirements which, I fully realise, must be of urgent concern to all interested in the progress

and welfare in this district. I need not assure you that Government will do their utmost to encourage efforts made to deal satisfactorily with these urgent problems.

I admire your proposal to form an "After-Care" Association for juvenile and adolescent offenders. I will see that your suggestion for the establishment of a Reformatory and Industrial School in the Chittagong Division is brought before Government.

I greatly appreciate the privilege you have accorded to me to lay the foundation-stone of this building to-day.

The Hon'ble Lady Jackson and I sincerely wish the Tippera Union Board Association a successful and prosperous future.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Opening
Ceremony of the Hussamia Madrassah,
Comilla, on 22nd July 1929.***

GENTLEMEN,

I sincerely thank you for the opportunity you have accorded me of taking part in the opening ceremony of the Comilla Hussamia High Madrassah building and at the same time express to you the appreciation of the Hon'ble Lady Jackson and myself of the cordial welcome that you have given us to-day. I have listened to the history of the Institution with much interest and I must express my deep appreciation of the generous and public-spirited munificence of the late Nawab Saiyed Hussam Haider Chowdhury, Khan Bahadur, which enabled this Madrassah to come into existence, and after whom it is named.

Your record of educational success is striking and reflects much credit upon the administration of the Madrassah. The efforts as regards education which your community are making to enable them to compete and hold their own are praiseworthy and you deserve to succeed. I am pleased to note the generous assistance given by Mr. Syed Ihtisham Haider Chowdhury in making a free gift of the valuable site on which this building stands and also upon his contribution of more than Rs. 6,000. His generosity has enabled you to receive the necessary building-grant of Rs. 10,000 from Government.

In declaring this building open, I wish it every success.

***His Excellency's Address at the Laying
of the foundation-stone of the Comilla
Sadar Hospital on 22nd July 1929***

GENTLEMEN,

I very much appreciate the opportunity which you have given me of being present here to-day to take part in the ceremony of the laying of the foundation-stone of the new Sadar Hospital of Comilla.

I understand that your present Hospital is not satisfactory and there is urgent need for its replacement at the earliest possible moment. This was recognised by my predecessor and in 1926 Government agreed to contribute towards the cost of the new one, subject to the necessary local contributions being assured.

I am pleased to hear that the full amount of the local contributions have now been raised and expenditure will proceed, in which case Government will endeavour to bring a portion of the grant required for expenditure next year into the budget of 1930-31.

You are greatly indebted to generous support from His Highness the Maharaja of Tripura, the District Board and the Municipality. It is very necessary that an important town like Comilla should have a first class hospital. You will, I am sure, appreciate that considerable responsibility rests upon local effort to provide for recurring expenditure.

I mention this, as it so often happens that after great effort has been expended in raising the necessary funds for construction, there is liable to be a falling off, and difficulties occur through want of the necessary support satisfactorily to maintain the Hospital.

I join with you in expressing our gratitude to His Highness the Maharaja of Tripura and other public-spirited gentlemen for their generosity, which has enabled you to make a start on the construction of the new Hospital. I feel sure it will prove of great benefit and will be thoroughly appreciated by the people of the district.

His Excellency's Speech at the laying of the foundation-stone of the Salimullah Muslim Hall, Dacca, on 22nd August 1929.

GENTLEMEN,

The privilege of taking part to-day in the ceremony of the laying of the foundation-stone of the Salimullah Muslim Hall comes to me, as your Vice-Chancellor has pointed out, through the unfortunate circumstances which prevented His Excellency the Viceroy from visiting Dacca last January.

Every one much regretted the inability of the Viceroy to be present on such an occasion which is one of special interest and importance, not only for the Muhammadans in Eastern Bengal, but throughout India.

Your disappointment was great and so I know was Lord Irwin's. He sent me a message before he left for England which he asked me to convey to you on this occasion. It is as follows :—

“It was a matter for great regret to me that I was prevented by circumstances from laying the foundation-stone of the Muslim Hall last January. Now, on the occasion of the inauguration of the building, I desire to identify myself with all the wishes for its future that are cherished by its warmest friends; and I trust that as years roll on the Muslim Hall may become an ever-increasing power for good in the young Muhammadan life of Eastern Bengal”.

I join with the Vice-Chancellor in the hope that His Excellency the Viceroy may be able to be present when this Hall is formally opened.

In their addresses, the Vice-Chancellor and the Provost, Mr. Hasan, have given reasons which amply justify the construction of this Hall. The Vice-Chancellor reminds us of the reports of the Dacca University Committee of 1912 and the Calcutta University Committee of 1917 in both of which the necessity for the provision of such a Hall was realized and strongly recommended.

In 1927 the Government of Bengal wisely decided to provide funds to carry out these recommendations and you will shortly possess a Hall, in which the students can enjoy the advantages of a corporate life in an environment especially adapted to Muhammadan needs and tastes. You will take your place on equal terms with the other Halls of the University and though confined to members of the Moslem community, you will not forget to play your common part and carry the common responsibilities of University life.

The Muslim Hall will, I believe, be an almost unique Institution in India. On the one hand it is intimately and organically connected with the Department of Islamic Studies, which is one of the most notable and important features of Dacca University and which encourages the rapid increase in numbers of ordinary Muhammadan citizens, religious and cultured, and at the same time competent to sustain the struggle of life on even terms with their fellow subjects of other communities. On the other hand the Muslim Hall makes it possible

for Muslim students to participate, in the fullest possible manner, in the academic and corporate life of a University which is open to all, without any distinction of caste or creed.

I have been deeply impressed, since I have been in Bengal by the earnest and persistent appeal by Muhammadans, for facilities and opportunities of education. They fully appreciate the backwardness of their community, and realize that their progress and their capacity to occupy their proper place in the life of the Presidency depend upon their ability to compete in the open field on equal terms with any competitors. As the determining factor to make Dacca the seat of a University was the desire to meet the demand of the Muhammadan population of Eastern Bengal for increased facilities for education, so the establishment of this Hall may be taken as an honest gesture of encouragement in your endeavours. Public policy demands that the Muhammadans should take their part in every sphere of public life in Bengal and you must aim at gaining responsible positions by equal merit under equal conditions.

I understand there is one grave difficulty you have to contend with. A large percentage of Muhammadan students who come to this University are unable to defray out of their own resources, the expenses for their education. This is a very serious problem. It is not possible for Government to unduly favour, out of public funds, one community. It appears to be necessary to make an earnest appeal to well-disposed Muhammadans to come to the assistance of members of their community whose proved ability warrants their taking an University

course. I hope the Moslem public will respond generously to the appeal which the University and the Muslim Hall authorities are making in this respect.

On such an occasion as this one cannot be unmindful of those eminent Muhammadans whose appreciation of the disastrous effects the backwardness in education must have upon the future progress and position of their community, urged them on to great endeavours to right the wrong.

Two names must always be remembered in this respect, the late Nawab Khawaja Sir Salimullah Bahadur and the late Nawab Bahadur Syed Nawab Ali Chowdhury, both of whom took a great and constant interest in the establishment and success of this University. This occasion would have rejoiced the hearts of both of them.

I would also like gratefully to acknowledge the assistance which the University has received from Nawab Khawaja Habibullah of Dacca who has shown a very practical generous interest in this University which owes much for its existence to the efforts of his illustrious forebears.

I am glad to know that the affairs of this Hall will be presided over by Mr. Hasan, whose academic achievements, broad-minded outlook and personality should gain the respect and confidence of those who reside in the Hall. I wish him success in his task.

I shall, in a moment, proceed to lay the foundation-stone upon which a building will rise in all respects worthy of its importance. I know your hopes from this new Hall are fixed high. I trust

they may be realized. I have no doubt if the most is made of the opportunities it offers, it will prove its value to the University and to Bengal, and help towards the realization of the earnest desires of Muhammadans, for that educational advancement which will assure their fair participation in the service of their country.

His Excellency's speech at the Dacca University Convocation on 23rd August 1929.

VICE-CHANCELLOR AND GENTLEMEN,

This is the third occasion on which it has been my privilege, as Chancellor, to preside over the annual Convocation of this University. I look forward to this opportunity of meeting the Staff and the members of the University and of hearing from the Vice-Chancellor something of the life of the past year and of the progress which has been made. I also welcome the opportunity of handing the certificates to those students who have graduated and been awarded their degrees. I offer them my sincere congratulations on their success and I hope the time they have spent at this University has been beneficial and pleasant and that their recollection of their life here will keep alive their interest in the University.

I wish them success in their future life and trust that the knowledge they have gained at Dacca will enable them to render useful service to their country.

You were good enough, Vice-Chancellor, to refer to the encouragement I have been privileged to offer by way of a prize for proficiency in two sides of University life—study and recreation. I can bestow my congratulations upon the winner of the Chancellor's medal for an English Essay and the *Victor ludorum* with equal satisfaction. There is no reason why both the prizes should not be obtained by the

same person. I hope some day this may happen and I shall await such an occasion with much interest.

The *Victor ludorum* is I believe the selection of the students, so I suppose there can be no doubt as to the title. I would just ask him so to use his prowess in athletics as to be an example and encouragement to others.

I have read the Essay which won the Medal, with interest and pleasure and I congratulate Mr. Monmotho Nath Ghose upon his success. The Essay would appear to indicate considerable literary gifts, which I hope he will make good use of and that they will bring him a just reward.

I am glad to hear of the satisfactory records of the Athletic Club and their success both in Football and in Cricket competitions. Recreation must play an important part in the successful corporate life of a University.

It is your custom, Vice-Chancellor, on this occasion to give a record of the progress which has been made in connection with the various activities of this University, during the past year. We have listened to your account with interest and satisfaction. You refer to the success of old students which has been attained at the English Universities, and which must be a source of gratification and pride to their mother University. You also refer to the successful development of Societies which have been formed in connection with the various departments of the University and which are well supported and appreciated by the students. You also reminded us that Professor S. N. Bose had been honoured by

being invited to preside over the Physics and Mathematics section of the Indian Science Congress at Madras—an honour which was well deserved and was equally well carried. Distinction for the Staff of such a kind should be a matter of special satisfaction to all connected with this University.

I should like also at this stage to congratulate Dr. Sinha, who has been appointed a member of the important Provincial Committee for the Government of India Banking Enquiry; and I must again express our appreciation to Rai Sasanka Coomar Ghose Bahadur, for his continued valuable services as Treasurer of the University. I take this opportunity of offering him my sincere congratulations upon the well-earned honour which has lately been bestowed upon him.

• I should also like to add my expressions of gratitude to Khan Bahadur Maulvi Chowdhuri Kazimuddin Ahmad Siddiqui, for his very handsome and valuable gift of books and manuscripts. I understand this gift was in the first instance proposed in honour of the Viceroy's visit: I feel sure that His Excellency Lord Irwin would like me to express his personal thanks for this generous consideration.

Vice-Chancellor, you naturally dwell at some length on the development of corporate life amongst the students, the progress in this direction appears to give you just cause for satisfaction. It is gratifying to note that corporate life at Dacca has made such rapid strides in the short history of the University and that many prejudices are melting away before common fellowship in the University as a whole.

All the Halls appear to live together harmoniously, in a spirit of fellowship and under a sense of common responsibility. I like to hear of this enthusiasm for the various Halls. This is as it should be; but I appreciate your fear lest through excessive enthusiasm for the Hall, the University might be forgotten or its interests relegated to second place. The success of individual Hall will not assure the success of the University as a whole. The University should be able to depend upon the support and the interest of all its members, if it is satisfactorily to perform the functions for which it exists. I note with interest that you have thought well to encourage the students to carry the responsibility of managing their own institutions. It is whilst at the University that a young man has the first real chance of appreciating what responsibility means. A chance is offered for the expression of character and personality and the development of self-control and judgment, which should enable him to discern with some accuracy the truth from plausible absurdity.

Such responsibility as is here imposed upon the student is a sure test, and the success and wisdom with which these institutions are conducted should indicate that capacity for organisation and wise direction which will be found of value in any calling which those concerned may take up in later life. By reposing this responsibility in the students you express a confidence and trust which I hope will not prove to be misplaced, and that the confidence will be reciprocated.

The general progress of the University which you are able to report no doubt justifies your desire

to expand your activities. For this purpose you have submitted to Government proposals which would involve a considerable increase in capital and recurring expenditure. Government is the source to which you must turn so long as the interest of individuals well-disposed towards the University has not been aroused. Perhaps, you will be able to demonstrate that the ordinary progress of the University demands additional financial provision and that the amount required is not greater than was contemplated by those who advised Government on the problem of establishing this University. The financial position of this Presidency must be known to all who depend upon Government assistance. Government appreciate their duty of providing to the fullest possible extent out of provincial revenues, for education of all kinds throughout this Presidency, but they are always faced with the fact that the revenues cannot expand under the present financial settlement to the extent that would justify them in meeting, in a way they wish, even the legitimate demands of progressive and satisfactory institutions.

This is Government's position at present. What is in store for us in the near future, I cannot predict, but in the revision of the financial position of the Provinces which I presume must be amongst the earliest and most important questions to be considered in connection with any new constitutional proposals, the position of Bengal must stand out as requiring immediate and drastic readjustment. Meanwhile you may be assured that the statements you have submitted are receiving careful and sympathetic examination."

I can understand your disappointment at the delay in the establishment of a Department of Botany and Bacteriology. I can assure you that Government fully appreciate the importance of your proposals which would encourage students to turn their eyes towards the greatest and most important industry in India, and they are anxious to foster any scheme which through co-operation, with the Department, would lead to higher education in Agriculture. Administrative approval has already been given to the scheme and the desirability of finding some way of financing it will not be lost sight of by Government. The chance of success of such a Department, in view of the proximity of the University to the Government Farm, impresses me personally very much, and you may be assured of my personal interest in your proposals.

I feel this University enjoys many advantages.

Dacca is a teaching University, compactly concentrated in one area. You are strong in the opportunities of intimate social fellowship with close contact between teachers and students, and you enjoy opportunities close at hand of games and healthy physical activities. You are not hampered by the sentiment and vested interests that attach themselves to old institutions. You are free to mould your own future. Mould conditions aright and men will grow to fit them. It is not by accident or by chance, but by set purpose after much deliberation and with high hopes, that Dacca University was created and fashioned in its present form. Those who created it were filled with the hope that a University, starting under such fair auspices, would be able to make some distinctive

contribution to the higher education of this Province. Such a contribution would have a double value. It would benefit the students who gather each year within your walls and in the end would have a powerful influence on the character of the whole educational system of Bengal and on the tone of its public life. The success of this University will be judged not by its academic achievement alone, but by the measure in which it is able to create new traditions of university life. A small residential University is a comparatively new type in India. There are no precedents for you to follow, no examples to emulate. Whilst studying and examining the best methods and ideas which exist, you must endeavour to evolve new methods and create new ideas.

A University must endeavour to give an education which strengthens mind and character and creates in a student a clear consciousness of what he knows and what he does not know. It is well to remember that education is something which begins and never ends and that you are constantly in a stage of learning and that it takes a long time before you can regard yourself as fit to sit in the seat of judgment.

The University is making good progress. The encouragement you have received in the past must continue in the future. The progress in this University depends upon the efforts of all its members and I trust that all, especially the students, for whose benefit it primarily exists, will do their best to uphold its honour and safeguard its good name.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening of
the Union Board Conference, Dacca, on
26th August 1929.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am very pleased to be able to attend your Conference again this year and to have the opportunity of meeting the Presidents of Panchayats and Union Boards assembled here.

I must thank you, Rai Bahadur, for your kind welcome and for the address, which I have just listened to, with much interest. It is indeed satisfactory to hear of the steady progress of the Union Boards in this district and that their usefulness is being well recognised and appreciated by the people.

You refer to my visits which I had the pleasure of making to the Boards at Khilgaon and Konda. These Boards are I believe typical of what may be found throughout the district. If this is so, then I can understand the growing appreciation of the people of their benefits.

You, Rai Bahadur, have given an account of the work done by Union Boards during the past year. It appears that the total money spent in village improvement approximated Rs. 1,97,500, of which Rs. 41,730 came from the District Board and Government grants, which shows that the bulk of the money spent was raised by the Boards themselves, an example of self-help which indicates a sense of responsibility and inspires confidence. I was interested to see the various services upon which expenditure had been made. As might be expected,

communications and water-supply absorbed the greater part of the expenditure. At the same time the dispensaries have been properly maintained, drainage schemes inaugurated and carried out and Rs. 32,000 has been spent on primary education. It is satisfactory to hear that every Union has dealt with the problem of water-supply, that greatest necessity for the health of the people, and that not only have tube-wells been provided, but they are also kept in good repairs. Amongst the subjects which will probably arise in your discussions is one to which you, Rai Bahadur, referred, namely the most important question of improvement of roads and bridges. Government, like you, appreciate the urgency of this problem. The position at the moment is that we are anxiously waiting for the Government of India to announce their decision on the recommendations of the Road Development Committee, and until they do so, it is not known what funds will be allotted to the Government of Bengal by the Central Government for road development and under what system they will be made use of. Until the policy of the Government of India is settled, it would be premature for the Local Government to take up any Bill imposing a further special tax on motor vehicle traffic, but the position will have to be examined as soon as the decision of the Government of India and the financial results involved have been made clear. I think we may reasonably expect that the decision of the Government of India will be given without much further delay.

* I am glad to hear that the full number of Rural Health Circles has been sanctioned in this district

and that the dispensaries are well maintained. I believe the establishment of well-equipped dispensaries throughout the various districts in accessible places are the best methods under the present conditions that can be adopted for meeting the urgent requirements of the people. I think the Union Boards would be wise to maintain dispensaries in as efficient condition as possible.

Upon the orderly organization of village life largely depends the welfare and happiness of the people. Union Boards have proved to be the best agencies for such organizations. The Union Boards, to thrive, must have the sympathy, assistance, and co-operation of the District Boards. In this district you are fortunate in having a Board with a Chairman who fully appreciates your value and usefulness. There are districts in parts of this Presidency not so fortunate and the welfare of the people is liable to be sacrificed to political expediency. Union Boards have now been established in practically the whole of the Dacca District. They have been in existence long enough to be able to form an estimate from experience of their value. I believe the general conclusion is that they are satisfactorily fulfilling their purpose. Union Boards, apart from their powers of organization and control, should be the nurseries of Government. They should be the medium through which those who serve upon them can learn the elementals of Government—what public administration means and bring out the latent administrative abilities of men which otherwise would be lost. These Boards will, through periodical elections, teach the people to understand the meaning of the franchise and how to

use their vote and by experience gradually to appreciate the responsibility attaching to their vote. The attainment of a proper appreciation of this responsibility is one of the most important requisites in Bengal.

As far as I can judge the Union Boards carry their responsibilities well and the Boards generally are well and honourably administered. I think a time must come when further responsibility will be placed upon you and if you carry out your additional responsibility as well as you do those you now have, it will prove of benefit to the Province and the people.

I will now declare the Conference open and in doing so, I wish to assure you of my personal interest in your welfare. I trust that your deliberations will prove productive of practical suggestions and that they may help you in your good work.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Addresses
presented at Rangpur on 30th August
1929.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am very grateful for the welcome you have so kindly accorded to Lady Jackson and myself on our first visit to Rangpur and I thank the Municipality, the District Board, the Muhammadan Association, the North Bengal Zamindars' Association and the Kshatriya Samiti for the addresses which they have just presented to me and to which I have listened with great interest.

I acknowledge your expressions of loyalty to the Throne and Person of His Majesty the King Emperor and your dutiful thankfulness at His Majesty's recovery from his serious illness.

In your addresses you refer to many matters of local interest. I regret that time will not allow me to reply individually to each address, nor can I refer at length to all the subjects to which you call my attention. I should like you to know, however, that I have carefully studied all the problems you have presented and you may be assured that after due consideration by the various Departments concerned I shall be personally informed of their conclusions.

In their address, the Commissioners of the Municipality refer to their inability to undertake any suitable scheme of water supply for this town and they have had to rely upon the sinking of tube-wells. I am informed that no proposals for a water works scheme has so far been placed before Government. There is no doubt that Government would

be prepared to follow the usual principle in the case of Municipal water works and help you by a grant of one third of the cost of the works and by the advance of such loan as the Municipal finances warrant. I hope you will find yourselves in a position to place proposals before Government at an early date.

In most of the addresses reference is made to the question of education. I congratulate the Municipality on the successful working of Mr. Biss' scheme for primary education. Government pays an annual grant of Rs. 6,000 for the purpose and it would welcome the proposals for the introduction of a compulsory scheme for primary education in the Municipal area. The Muhammadan Association and the Kshatriya Samiti both express a special desire for the early introduction of free primary education. As you are aware, a Rural Primary Education Bill is now before the Legislative Council and I hope the Bill will be passed into law. It is generally admitted that a sound system of primary education is the most urgent necessity in the interest of the progress and welfare of the people of Bengal.

The Municipality ask for an increase in the recurring annual grant to the Carmichael College. At present it receives a maintenance grant of Rs. 950 a month and I hope that sufficient funds may become available in the future to enable Government to provide increased grants to deserving colleges of this class.

The Municipality and the District Board refer to the question of provincialization of the local girls'

school. I appreciate that the maintenance and improvement of this school is of great local interest. Government does not at present favour adding to the number of provincialised institutions, but every endeavour will be made to sanction an additional grant to enable the authorities of the school to conduct it efficiently, as soon as funds become available. The Education Department will be prepared to sanction a reasonable building grant as soon as the necessary preliminaries under the grant-in-aid rules are settled.

In three of the addresses a strong desire is expressed for facilities for agricultural education in Rangpur. The Municipality suggest the establishment of an Agricultural College and the District Board refer to the scheme for the addition of agricultural classes to the local Carmichael College. Government are anxious to do everything they can to encourage higher agricultural education. The Royal Commission on Agriculture expressed the opinion that the first need of the Province is the establishment of an agricultural institute at Dacca and to that scheme Government must devote its attention and its available finance before other schemes are taken up. I fear that the opening of an Agricultural Department in the College is not at the moment feasible. I note that you have raised a sum of Rs. 8,000 which is waiting to be used in connection with agricultural education. I would suggest that the Agricultural Association should consult the Department with a view to finding a possible scheme of practical training for which the money might be utilised.

The District Board refer to the improvement and expansion of the Bailey Govindalal Technical School. Interest in technical education is now wide-spread throughout the Province. During the past three years the grant for technical education has been increased by a recurring amount of Rs. 30,000 per annum. The present policy of my Government is to establish four model technical schools in the Province, of which the Rangpur Institution will be one. The scheme for your school has been administratively approved. As soon as the necessary funds are available, the scheme will be started.

I am sorry I cannot hold out much hope for the establishment in the near future of a medical school at Rangpur. Medical schools are being provided both at Jalpaiguri and Mymensingh and these are within easy reach of Rangpur. It is necessary to have experience of the value of these schools before Government can feel justified in approving the construction of others.

The District Board in their address draw my attention to their efforts to control the scourges of malaria and kala-azar. They suggest the establishment of a number of anti-malarial societies throughout the district. There is available this year a grant of Rs. 1,20,000 for anti-malarial work in the Province, the distribution of which is assigned to the Director of Public Health. The benefit of allotments of this fund will no doubt be available to Rangpur.

As regards kala-azar, a special grant for 3 years of one lakh per annum came to an end in 1928-29,

and it was not renewed in accordance with the policy of directing funds available for rural Public Health work into the scheme for rural Public Health centres in each thana. This scheme constitutes an increase in the charges in the Public Health Budget. It was necessary, therefore, to reduce the grant for kala-azar to the normal figure of Rs. 50,000. The Director of Public Health has been asked to watch carefully the position in regard to kala-azar and submit proposals if he considers an increased grant for work on kala-azar is again necessary.

Government welcome the response of the Rangpur District Board to the scheme for rural health centres. A grant of Rs. 11,180 for the maintenance of 12 rural health centres was made to the Rangpur District Board in 1928-29, and no doubt funds will be found for the additional 6 units out of this year's grant, provided the conditions laid down by Government are complied with.

With reference to the drainage of the bheels, you appear to consider that the health of the district is seriously affected by the silting up of what is known as Ghose's Canal and that the excavation of this canal is an urgent necessity in the interests of the health of the people.

The opinion of the Public Health Department does not confirm the view that the canals have deteriorated so far as to cease to function for drainage purposes, but can apparently be kept in good condition with proper maintenance and serve their purpose in conjunction with the river Ghoghat. If a special survey is required of the position at present or any proposals for a capital scheme are to

be framed, the Municipality or the District Board would do well to get into touch with the Public Health Department on the subject.

You complain of the want of requisite statutory powers for enforcing re-vaccination in seasons of epidemic and dealing with the insanitary conditions prevailing in the numerous fairs, melas and hâts held in the district throughout the year. Government are aware that the powers of the district health authorities at fairs and melas are not adequate, but there are considerable difficulties in the way of general legislation. Enquiries are being made to see what can be done for the improvement of the position in the case of some of the larger fairs and melas in the first instance.

• I sympathise with you in your difficulties in connection with the maintenance of roads in view of the advent of motor traffic. The solution of the difficulty depends upon the decision of the Government of India in connection with the recommendations of the Road Development Committee. It is expected that the decision of the Government of India on this matter will not be long delayed.

The question of special taxation of motor vehicles with a view to supplement the Road Fund constituted out of the provincial allotment from the tax on petrol, will be taken up subsequently.

The District Board of Rangpur enjoys a well-earned reputation for its interest in the Veterinary Department and I congratulate you on the progress you have made. With reference to the levying of fees, I would point out that fees may be charged for the treatment of cattle in your hospitals and dispensaries under the existing rules. With regard to

serum, Government have recently decided that the supply to local authorities should be made at Government cost. In these circumstances I feel sure that the Board will not desire to charge fees for the use of serum which they obtain free of cost, nor would it be in accord with the object of Government in granting free serum if the Boards were allowed to levy fees from those who take advantage of this supply.

It is particularly gratifying to hear that your efforts in helping to establish Union Boards have been so successful. Though the scheme was introduced in this district only two years ago, it is satisfactory to know that there are already 317 Union Boards in the Rangpur District and ample proof is forthcoming that the benefits to be obtained from them are recognised and appreciated by the people. I hope the District Board will do all they can to encourage these Union Boards, on the orderly and efficient administration of which greatly depends the welfare of the people in their charge.

In the addresses of the Muhammadan Association, the Zamindars' Association and the Kshatriya Samiti, a natural desire is expressed for increased representation in the Legislative Council, the local Self-Governing bodies and similar institutions. As regards Muhammadan representation in the Legislative Council, this cannot now be altered without disturbing the whole balance of communal representation. This is one of the subjects under consideration by the Indian Statutory Commission and no action is advisable pending the report of the Commission.

You express your appreciation of what Government have done towards reserving for the Moslem community a proportion of posts in the public services. In making nominations to local bodies, the desire of Government is always to give representation to the Hindu and Muslim communities as far as possible in proportion to their claims based on population and payment of rates. As regards the Kshatriya Samiti's request, there are many different castes in Bengal, several of which are backward in education and general development; it is clearly impossible for Government to give to all these backward classes special privileges with regard to educational facilities and appointments to Government service. Government must rely on the general improvement in educational facilities rather than on special facilities for certain classes. If the Kshatriya community represent the Rajbansis of Rangpur, they ought to be included among the backward classes and as such they are eligible for special scholarships in addition to the ordinary competitive scholarships. Government are not aware of any difficulty or disability standing in the way of admission of Rajbansi students to ordinary schools. Instructions have been issued to Principals of all Government Colleges to give due consideration to the claims of candidates of backward classes at the time of admission.

As regards the request of the Zamindars' Association for an extension of the privilege to the landholders of the use of the certificate procedure for the realisation of rents under section 158A of the Bengal Tenancy Act—where the record of rights has been prepared and finally published, the

privilege may be allowed. It would appear, however, that no record of rights has been prepared and finally published in the district of Rangpur. Once a record has been prepared, I am advised that there would be no objection to granting the privilege if the required terms and conditions are fulfilled.

In June last I had the pleasure of seeing Rai Sahib Panchanan Barman at Darjeeling, when he presented to me a memorandum dealing with the general condition and urgent requirements of the Kshatriyas. That memorandum I studied with interest and care. I am alive to my duty in accordance with my instructions from His Majesty the King Emperor as regards assuring the consideration and safeguarding the interests of all minorities in this Province, but I assure you that no one occupying my position could help but be impressed by the urgent need for constant and special consideration of the problem of the advancement and uplift of the millions of so called backward classes. The interests of all backward classes are continually receiving the attention of my Government and you may rest assured they will do all in their power to promote their contentment and progress.

I must apologise for the length of my reply, but it was unavoidable if I wanted to try merely to touch the numerous questions and proposals raised in the five addresses, many of which are important enough to justify much more explanation than the cursory reply I have been able to give to-day.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening of
the Public Health Laboratory, Rangpur,
on 30th August 1929.***

GENTLEMEN,

I much appreciate your kind invitation to be present on this occasion and to formally open this Public Health Laboratory. It must always be a pleasant task, where opportunity is given to lend encouragement to any endeavour to improve the health of the people in Bengal.

In large areas of this Presidency at certain times of the year we are regularly faced with serious maladies, the result of natural causes, the relief of which severely taxes the resources of the Province and the ingenuity of men.

There are other maladies which can be traced to the consumption of impure food, which you rightly regard as the handiwork of the enemies of society and which can be, and should be stopped.

In 1919 the extension of the Bengal Food Adulteration Act to rural areas gave powers to deal with the trouble, but, as you say, these powers have been crippled by the lack of facilities for detection and conviction.

It would appear that you feel you have some grievance against Government on the ground that you were encouraged to proceed to the construction of this Laboratory on the expectation of a grant of Rs. 2,500 which has not yet materialised. I have taken some trouble to ascertain the true facts as regards this undertaking and I think you have proceeded under some misapprehension. Government decided to assist the establishment of Public

Health Laboratories by a grant of Rs. 2,500, non-recurring, subject to certain conditions—first, budget provision; secondly, the report of the Director of Public Health on the Laboratory; and thirdly, there was an adequate trained staff. I find the Director of Public Health informed all the District Boards on March 26th last that it would not be possible to make an allotment for the purpose of assisting the Laboratories in 1929-30. It seems that you started just a little before the flag had dropped. Anyhow, I personally feel sympathy with you and admire your eagerness to meet what you considered a most urgent need in the interests of the welfare of your district.

The Public Health Laboratory is, I believe, the first of its kind in Bengal. I have no doubt you fully realise that to prove its value and usefulness a thoroughly efficient and capable staff is a necessity. I shall watch the results of its value with much interest and if, as I anticipate, it proves by results of genuine benefit to the health of the people, you will be well rewarded and your enterprise must be suitably acknowledged. I should like to show my personal interest in your efforts by asking you to accept a gift of Rs. 500 and to express the hope I can not do more at present, that my Government may find themselves in a position, in the near future, to give you that assistance which I know it is their desire to do, provided our very limited resources will allow of it.

I must again express my pleasure at being invited to open this Laboratory and I trust it will be successful and prove that great benefit to the health of the people it is intended to secure.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Armistice
Day Dinner on 11th November 1929.***

GENTLEMEN,

It is now my privilege to propose the toast of "His Majesty's Forces." The Toast List at such a gathering as this would not be complete without this Toast and I know that it requires few words of commendation from me to ensure its enthusiastic reception by you.

"His Majesty's Forces" is a time-honoured Toast in any gathering of Britons throughout the Empire and I feel that it will be long before it can be regarded as out of date.

This Toast is a comprehensive one including the Navy, Army, Air Forces and Auxiliary Forces and every sailor and soldier of the King Emperor throughout the Empire.

In honouring the Toast one is bound to remember the records and traditions of the past and the part played by His Majesty's Forces upon the general trend of history. The traditions of every branch of His Majesty's Forces are such as to stir our national pride, as they should be an inspiration to every boy who joins them or is born under the British Flag. History shows that when they have entered the fray it has been for upholding the right against wrong and aggression, or for restoring order out of chaos. I believe that our great responsibilities to-day, taking into consideration the conditions under which we carry them, demand forces adequate to enable us to discharge them with satisfaction and security.

The records and deeds of the British Navy stir the emotion in every breast. In peace as in war, their guardianship of the highways of the Empire over the sea is vital. With more than half the carrying trade of the world, the protection of an adequate Navy is essential. We know only too well that in case of trouble, without adequate protection for our supplies, Great Britain will be reduced to starvation within a month.

With the Army the majority of those present to-night are well-acquainted. The records and traditions of this service are no less renowned than those of the Navy. In India we have special reasons to appreciate the presence of His Majesty's Forces. Their primary duty is to maintain peace and a sense of security which no other agency could equally accomplish. I feel sure that you consider it one of the great privileges of your life to have the opportunity of doing your duty as a soldier in the Army.

The Air Force has proved its equal importance with the older services. All must have been thrilled by the wonderful exploits of the Royal Air Force when in 80 journeys they evacuated 600 people of all nationalities from Kabul in the midst of serious strife and difficulties which would have deterred the bravest from venturing on such an errand under the most favourable conditions. It was a great achievement which gives cause for national pride.

The Voluntary Service of the Auxiliary Forces of the Empire evokes the admiration and wonder of the world and I trust that this spirit of patriotism and sense of duty will never be allowed to be discouraged. One branch of the Auxiliary Forces

deserves special mention. Nothing more impressed the world than the part played and services rendered by women during the great War. Their services in case of the country's need must always be reckoned upon in the future. The recruitment of women as combatants is a revolting idea. The tender ministrations and care of the sufferers in the strife is the natural mission of women, and the most effective and useful service they can render.

We hear much to-day of disarmament and limitation of armaments which must be a natural desire of the world after the experience of the late war. No nation desires peace or needs peace more than the British Empire, but I believe that our Forces have never exceeded the minimum necessary for the safe discharge of our responsibilities throughout the far flung Empire. When every other country agrees to the reduction of their armaments, then we can afford to follow suit. The burden of cost of large forces is undoubtedly great. The cost is the price that we must pay for the Empire and as our existence and security depend upon the existence of the Empire, the price ought not to be too much to pay.

There are people who can regard His Majesty's Forces only in the light of instruments of war and destruction, whereas, as a matter of fact, under the conditions in which the world has moved in the past, their existence has unquestionably often proved a potent factor in the prevention of war and in the maintenance of peace. The greatest necessity for the progress and prosperity of the Empire is the peace of the world and security within our borders. The day may be approaching when reason will

reign supreme and the nations of the world will be prepared to settle their differences by arbitration, and agree to the decision of a third party, but until this 'happy condition is reached, there must still be something in the belief that to assure peace we must be prepared for trouble.

It is with exceptional pleasure that I couple the Toast with the name of the General Officer Commanding the Presidency and Assam District, whom we welcome in our midst to-night for the first time. General Rhys Pryce has a military record of exceptional brilliance, with experience of all the important branches of the Service. I know you all will extend to him a hearty welcome and we shall be pleased to hear anything he feels inclined to tell us about His Majesty's Forces.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Armistice
Day Dinner on 11th November 1929..***

MR. VILLIERS,

I am very grateful for the cordial manner in which you have received this Toast and I must thank you, Mr. Villiers, for the kind terms in which you have referred to me in proposing it and for your good wishes.

I am very happy to be with you to-night, at this annual gathering of men who had the satisfaction to serve their country in the great War and the good fortune to come safely through the ordeal. You select for your meeting the evening of one of the most eventful days in the history of the world, when 11 years ago, after 4 years of unexampled world strife the Armistice was signed which it was hoped would precede a peace which would be lasting and would enable the world to recover from the blows under which it has suffered. We celebrate the Armistice on the 11th of November in the only way possible by offering our gratitude for a successful issue from this struggle and by paying homage to those whose sacrifice made victory possible. I like to regard this occasion as a gathering of old comrades, who love their country and whose circumstances forced them to live out of it, and who like to remember that they did their best to serve her in her hour of need. It is excusable that the memory of those days—hungry and thirsty days—should occasionally invite an inclination to make up the lost time. It was my lot to have the experience of previous war conditions in South

Africa, though those conditions were little comparable with those of the great War, except the spirit of comradeship, which such conditions engender. When we look back we like to forget the horrors and to remember those episodes which really kept things going.

Mr. Villiers was good enough to wish me courage and wisdom in the responsible task which it is my lot to carry as Governor of Bengal. I appreciate these good wishes as one needs all strength and wisdom one can collect to deal with the problems which daily confront the Government in this Presidency. I will not wander into politics to-night, but as must be obvious to all, we are passing through an interesting and critical period in India just now. From what has lately happened there appears to be a desire on the part of responsible leaders of Indian public opinion to respond to the Viceroy's statement in the same spirit in which it was framed, and to arrive at an understanding which, if attained, should enable good-will to be substituted for mis-trust through which alone it may be possible to move forward towards a satisfactory solution of India's future administration.

Before I sit down, I would refer to the Ex-Services Association Committee whose excellent work on behalf of ex-service men is greatly appreciated and deserves the heartiest thanks and support.

I am also sure you would wish to extend your gratitude to Captain Gunn for the excellent organisation and arrangements this evening.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Bishopric
Endowment Fund meeting on 13th
November 1929.***

GENTLEMEN,

I appreciate the privilege of presiding at this gathering this evening which is called to inaugurate an appeal for the partial endowment of the Bishopric of Calcutta. As you have heard from the Metropolitan the year 1930 will witness the coming into operation of the Indian Church Act, by which the Church in India will begin its career as an independent church in communion with the Mother Church in England. Under this Act the Church in India ceases to be under the control of the Archbishop of Canterbury and is called upon to look after herself. This freedom will entail corresponding responsibilities which the Church in India must shoulder: self-government and free development necessarily bring the obligation of self-support. Considerable financial liabilities have to be faced and the representatives of the churches in Calcutta assembled at this meeting are asked to help to make that provision for the Calcutta Bishopric which will assure that the Head of the Church in India may fulfil his exacting duties free from any anxiety in this respect.

Since the days of the East India Company up to the present, the salary of the Bishop of Calcutta has been found out of Imperial revenues. In the days of the East India Company the Government was a trading concern and I understand it was then

enacted that the employees of the Company required and should be provided with spiritual ministrations and a Chaplain supplied to every garrison, factory and ship over a certain tonnage.

Those days and conditions are past. I think it must be generally felt by Churchmen that Government cannot be expected to make provision of the whole of the money to meet the salaries of the Presidency Bishop, but that the Church itself should find these funds from amongst its members and adherents. Government are prepared to provide a sum which should meet half the cost of the Bishop's salary, allowances and house rent, after the present Metropolitan has retired.

I am glad to know that the present Bishop is assured of his salary as long as he occupies the position of Metropolitan, which we all pray may be for many years yet. The Government contribution will be proportionate to the services rendered by the Bishop as Supervisor of Government Chaplains for their ministrations to the Civil and Military employees of the Crown.

I feel little doubt that the Churchmen throughout this Presidency will appreciate their obligations and be prepared to meet them.

The sum which it has been undertaken to raise is I understand little over 5 lakhs. Towards this a substantial amount has already been obtained or promised. The balance required to be raised is about 3 1/2 lakhs. I sincerely trust that the appeal which goes forth this evening throughout this Presidency will meet with a generous response. Calcutta must live up to her position as the first

city in India and give generously towards the maintenance of the work of the Church. I hope that Churchmen will give what they can, but especially give their assistance by persuading others to do likewise.

It is now my pleasure to move the following resolution :—

“This meeting, recognising the duty which rightly rests upon the Church of India, of making suitable provision for the support of its Bishops, pledges itself to assist in raising an endowment for the See of Calcutta, and gratefully acknowledges the generous benefactions which have materially lightened the task.”

His Excellency's Speech at the prize distribution of the Government Commercial Institute on 19th November 1929.

GENTLEMEN,

I am glad to have the opportunity of making acquaintance with the Government Commercial Institute.

I have listened to the Principal's report with much interest, in which he gave a lucid account of the work and progress of this Institute during the 25 years of its existence. In spite of considerable difficulties it now appears to be established on a fairly satisfactory foundation.

The principles upon which this Institute is conducted are sound, and your object of assisting young men to learn the elements of business is, in my judgment, of great importance in Bengal with its vast commercial interests. What particularly impresses me is that the Institute has the advantage of the advice of a Board of Management composed largely of prominent business-men, and consequently the curriculum should be framed on lines calculated to give the greatest assistance to those who take advantage of it.

I am constantly reminded of the great difficulty experienced by youngmen in Bengal, who having passed through the University are not able to obtain suitable employment. This is a serious problem in Bengal. Anything which can be done to alleviate this trouble should be encouraged. No doubt many

look to business for employment, and they should be encouraged to do so, and there can be no question that a course successfully passed at this Institute should be a recommendation.

I was struck by the statement in the Principal's Report that a full commercial course student passing from this Institute—the G. D. A. and the holder of the London Institute of Bankers diploma—has a good market value. I have no doubt that it would be an advantage to this Institute, as perhaps, it might be to Government, if the line followed by the Bombay Government was adopted and admittance into Government clerical service with some preference, was allowed for those who passed the London Chamber's Examination.

Anything that can be done to assist the employment of the large number of young men we have in our midst in commercial offices should be encouraged. The opportunity of supplementing the ordinary school and University education by practical commercial education should be available and this Institute supplies the want.

I am glad to know that you are now occupying premises suitable to your needs. I am informed that administrative approval of Government has been accorded to the reorganisation of the Staff and it is expected that effect will be given to the scheme before long, which involves an additional expenditure of over Rs. 16,000 per annum. The fact that 23 institutions are affiliated to the Institute and that there are at present 150 students of day classes, and 400 in the evening classes, proves that the value of the education offered is being appreciated.

I feel strongly that the success of this institution must depend in a large degree upon the personal interest of those who have practical understanding of the needs of commercial knowledge and business methods. I think there is no better service which can be given by men possessed of this understanding than by generously supporting by their advice and interest an institution of this character. If I may say so, they are not only giving a great help to the youth of Bengal, but also to their businesses by assuring a supply of men with some knowledge and possessing an interest in and a desire to succeed in commercial life.

Gentlemen, I shall watch your progress with interest and sympathy and I wish the Institute all success.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening of
the Flying Club Golf Course at Dum-Dum
on 24th November 1929.***

SIR RAJENDRA NATH MOOKERJEE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

You could not have afforded me a greater pleasure than by giving me an opportunity of taking part in the opening of this Golf Club to-day.

Ever since I came to India, when I had the good fortune to make your acquaintance, which acquaintance, I am glad to think, has ripened into real friendship, I have endeavoured, as I think you know, to do what I can to encourage good fellowship, mutual respect and understanding between Indians and the Europeans who spend the best part of their lives in this country. You are right in your view, Sir Rajendra, that this understanding can be helped and developed upon the field of sport.

In the game, in the enjoyment of which I spent many summers of my life in England, there is an unwritten law which is one of its proudest boasts, that Cricket knows no distinction in class or creed in those who play it and who play the game. I have often expressed the hope that before I had finished my time in Bengal, I might see Sports Clubs established in Calcutta and elsewhere where the two races could meet in friendly rivalry or as partners in the ancient and excellent game of Golf, which Scotland claims as her own, but which has now seized the imagination of every country in the world. The Golf Clubs in Calcutta I know are full to over-flowing and have large waiting lists, and

there is undoubtedly room for more clubs where Golf can be played under conditions I have mentioned.

You have made an excellent move in deciding to construct this Golf Club in connection with the Flying Club and I hope that it will be made full use of by the members. When it is completed, I shall look forward to playing here.

I think Golf ought to appeal to Indians with their splendid eye and supple limbs, and they will be bound to play it well. Like all games Golf must be played rigidly according to the rules. It sometimes happens that people are inclined to make rules of their own. But this must be discouraged even in the youngest.

I wish all success to the Club, which, under your encouragement I am sure, is in store for it. I feel confident that you will receive the support and sympathy of all sportsmen from whatever part of the world they hail.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Flying Club,
Dum-Dum, on 24th November 1929.***

GENTLEMEN,

It gives me great pleasure to revisit the Club, which I had the honour to open a year ago and to hear that its social amenities are being appreciated.

One of the advantages of this Club which appeared strongly to me was that it was open to all and gave an opportunity to people of both races to meet together. There never was a time when it was more necessary that British and Indians should make opportunities for coming closer together and understanding one another. Mutual understanding will develop mutual trust which is essential for the satisfactory solution of the problems which confront us at this moment in India.

The progress of aviation in India is slow as compared with what is taking place in the Western countries of the world, but there can be no manner of doubt that aviation is bound to go on progressing and sooner or later it will come East where conditions for aviation are so good and the economic possibilities so obvious. The air sense will assuredly come to Indians and then you will have reason for satisfaction that you have made yourselves prepared. Government are doing their best to encourage aviation from the business point of view and last week they approved of a contract for the survey of a large area of land by aeroplane in connection with the preparation of the record of rights of a District in Bengal.

The experiments in survey by photography from aeroplanes have proved satisfactory and it is fully expected that this means of survey will save a great deal of time and money.

I am deeply interested in the success of the Bengal Flying Club and I sincerely wish it increasing prosperity.

***His Excellency's Speech at the St. Andrew's
Day Dinner on 30th November 1929:***

GENTLEMEN,

You have reminded me that this is the third occasion upon which I have had the honour of attending the St. Andrew's Day Dinner, when on each occasion it has been my pleasing duty to respond to the toast of "The Guests." One thing I can say with all sincerity is that the pleasure I personally experience in attending this annual gathering, increases in ratio to its frequency, and when the occasion is past, I begin to look forward to the next.

• The St. Andrew's Day Dinner must always be an event of interest and importance in the annual life of this City. As you have pointed out, there are present to-night amongst your guests eminent representatives of Church and State and of commerce and social activities in this city, all of whom, I feel sure, will desire me to express to you their gratitude for your generous hospitality this evening and their sincere good wishes for the continued prosperity of the Scottish Community, who play such an important part in the various spheres of life in this Presidency.

I am very grateful to you, Mr. Lamb, for the kindly references to myself which you have made in your happy and admirable speech. I am greatly encouraged in my task—not always an easy one—by the assurance you feel able to give me that I carry your confidence and that I can rely upon your much valued sympathy and support.

It is always interesting to hear a Scot refer to those careful, thrifty and business-like instincts which are the reputed characteristics of the race, and the envy and sometimes the despair of their less fortunate brethern. I notice they generally ascribe the reputation to stories of Englishmen concocted after a visit to Aberdeen. Personally I always admire their capacity in business of appreciating the value of sixpence and, when they must bang it, of obtaining its value. But we here to-night have every reason to know that where their hospitality is concerned, they can bang sixpence with a pleasure which knows no limitation.

There is, however, I think no question that the strength of the foundations upon which the Scottish character is built is abundantly proved by the position Scotchmen and Scotchwomen always occupy in all parts of the British Empire. I am justified in regarding the proposer of the Toast as a fine example of his race. Mr. Lamb is always ready to give his service when duty calls or when sport invites. He combines the pleasure of being a member of the Legislative Council with the more exacting and exciting position of President of the Football Federation. If his services in the former fade, in the latter they never will.

We have heard some excellent speeches to-night all of which dealt with their subjects with admirable taste and understanding. I should like particularly to congratulate the proposer of the toast "The Lassies." He performed his delicate duty with impressive ease which indicates a sound and exemplary upbringing. I could not help thinking that it was a good thing that there was no reply.

However, I hope his remarks will find wide circulation and both they and he will receive the attention they deserve.

I listened to Mr. Fraser Blair's eloquent and striking speech with much interest. Mr. Blair has had a long experience in this country having come out 35 years ago, the same time that I paid my first visit to India. His calling has enabled him to devote much time to the study of India—her history and her problems, and his views must be listened to with interest and respect. I was sorry to hear him say in his speech that he thought that the habit of Europeans leaving this country in a hurry, was to some extent responsible for resentment and ill-will which has shown itself amongst Indians. I do not propose to dwell upon it as it appears to me that no good could be done by discussing the truth or falseness of the old accusation which when originally made was not intended to be complimentary, nor do I think it would be calculated to assist in promoting that atmosphere of good-will which we hope is making its appearance from better understanding, but I should like to say that my experience of men who have made a success of their business, and received a suitable reward, is not that they are anxious to run away from India, but did circumstances permit, they would much prefer to stay. It appears to me the conditions of their service here are to blame rather than the individuals. Half a dozen names occur to me of personal friends, and they may be regarded as typical of a large majority, whose services to Bengal and India are on record, and these services are in themselves a sufficient refutation of the worthiness or justice of any such charge.

During his long experience Mr. Fraser Blair has seen great changes take place in India. I daresay looking back he may feel that if certain events had not happened, and other things had been done or dealt with differently, it might have been better and the problems with which we are faced to-day would have been easier of solution. That may be, but although we cannot divest ourselves of our responsibilities for the past, and we do not wish to, I think we must at this moment be more concerned with the future, and as to how, taking things as they are to-day, we can best assure the future progress and prosperity of all peoples in India, consistent with the interests of that commonwealth of nations which make up the British Empire, of which India is a part and should we hope in the fullness of time, be a partner.

Since we last met a year ago, much of grave political importance has happened. At the end of last year and the beginning of this for nearly six months the Simon Commission were in India, several weeks of which they spent in Bengal. The general response accorded to them in this Presidency, though not enthusiastic, was not marred by any untoward event and they received a satisfactory measure of assistance. Having finished their mission in India, they are now nearing the completion of their report, and until this is presented to His Majesty's Government, no good purpose can be served by attempting to anticipate their recommendations. On the return of the Viceroy to India early this month, after consultation with His Majesty's Government, he issued a statement in which he re-affirmed the purpose underlying the

well-known Declaration of 1917 and announced the decision of Government, after the publication of the Simon Commission's Report, to invite accredited representatives of political thought in British India and representatives of the Indian States to a conference in London with His Majesty's Government. At this conference it is proposed that the views of all parties should be put forward and discussed, individually or collectively with a view to assisting Government to place proposals before Parliament for the constitutional advance in India which might be regarded as providing a wide measure of general assent.

There appears to be no question that this statement has had an arresting effect upon the attention of all people in India interested in India's welfare and political progress. It was with genuine satisfaction that we read a resolution passed at the conference of prominent leaders of political opinion in India which, though containing certain qualifications, had every appearance of being an appreciative response to what they regarded as an honourable endeavour to meet Indian opinion and dispel the misunderstanding and mistrust which clouded previous conditions.

This decision inspires the hope of co-operation which may help to transform the constitutional and political outlook and discredit methods of agitation based upon suspicion, mistrust and racial hatred. It is only right that we should recognise that such a condition has been largely made possible through the confidence and respect which Lord Irwin's straightforward and sympathetic handling of Indian problems has created. It is to be hoped that the

invitation to the conference will be accepted in the spirit in which it is offered and that meanwhile every effort will be made throughout India to foster the atmosphere of good-will and trust which has made its welcome appearance and which, if allowed to continue, must undoubtedly facilitate the difficult task of solving India's political problem.

It is not possible to estimate to what extent this ray of sunshine has penetrated the clouds of mistrust and antagonism which hang over Bengal. I fear it cannot penetrate far until the broader views of Statesmanship prevail over the narrow and short-sighted attachment to political opportunism which at present holds the field ; but there are signs that the prospect of direct approach to His Majesty's Government has appealed to all but the irreconcilable, who still cling to the belief that they can attain their ends by methods as unstatesmanlike as they are impossible.

I would like to refer to the constitutional difficulty with which I find myself faced in this Presidency. As you are aware, since the election six months ago, Government has been carried on under special emergency powers, without the assistance of Ministers responsible for the Transferred Subjects. This has been mainly due to a lack of indication that any Ministry I might appoint would be able to rely upon that support which might reasonably be expected to assure its stability. This state of things has gone on long enough and I am faced with the position of either asking the Governor-General in Council, with the sanction of the Secretary of State in Council, under the provisions of Devolution Rule 6, to suspend or revoke

the transfer of the Transferred Subjects, that is, to continue the present arrangements indefinitely on the ground of not being in a position to appoint Ministers, or to appoint Ministers and take the chance of their obtaining the support of a majority in Council.

I feel I cannot resort to the first of these alternatives for two reasons :—

Firstly, I am not prepared to admit that the constitution has broken down, and

Secondly, the new Council must have an opportunity of exercising its constitutional rights.

I believe that the majority of the present Council desire that Ministers should be appointed. I personally feel that in the general interest there should be Ministers responsible for Transferred Subjects, and I propose at the earliest possible moment to appoint Ministers, who, I hope, may prove to be generally acceptable.

There is just one other matter to which I feel I must refer. For some time past Government have been concerned at the persistent indication in statements in the Press and on public platforms that endeavours are to be made to fulfil the terms of a resolution which was passed at the All-India Congress meeting in Calcutta last Christmas. It is probable that much will depend upon the outcome of the discussions at the All-India Congress to be held in Lahore next month. In view of the change of outlook amongst certain sections of public opinion which has appeared since the proposal for a conference was made by His Majesty's Government, it is hoped that better counsels will prevail.

If this is so, it will be found that this Government will quickly respond to any indication that the spirit underlying the Delhi Resolution has permeated into Bengal; but on the other hand in the event of any general disturbance of the normal life in this Presidency, Government have very clear and definite duties to perform. Whilst ready to regard generously any orderly and legitimate expression of political feeling, they must also be prepared to meet any emergency which in any way threatens to disturb or interfere with the performance of the peaceful avocations of the inhabitants of this Presidency.

. As usual I have wandered far from my toast and I must thank you for your indulgence. Before I began my speech I knew I could have assured you that your guests had thoroughly enjoyed their evening. I cannot vouch for how they are feeling now. They look a bit sleepy—I presume as a result of my speech. However, I must risk it—and thank you once more on their behalf and my own for this very generous Scottish welcome you have given us this evening.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Addresses
presented at Malda on 4th December
1929.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am most grateful for the cordial welcome which you have accorded to the Hon'ble Lady Jackson and myself on our visit to this town. I am well aware of the great historic interest which attaches to this neighbourhood, where the ancient cities of Gaur and Pandua stood in all their glory when they were the seats of Government. I have for long been anxious to visit them.

I gratefully acknowledge your expressions of loyalty and devotion to the Person and Throne of His Majesty the King Emperor. The kindly sympathy exhibited by the King Emperor's Indian subjects in his recovery from his recent serious illness has been greatly appreciated by His Majesty.

This is the second visit I have paid to Malda. The last time I came here under unfortunate circumstances when the district was in the throes of distress owing to the scarcity, through the failure of the rains. I came here to discuss details of the measures of relief. I am sorry my visit on the present occasion has also to be brief, but I am glad I have been able to renew it so soon and under, I hope, more favourable circumstances.

I have given careful consideration to the various subjects to which you draw my attention in the addresses of the Englishbazar Corporation, District Board, Malda Association, and Muhammadan Association.

Public health is rightly placed in the forefront of both the Municipal and District Board addresses, as continuous care for the health of the people is fundamental to the material prosperity of a district. An essential factor of a public health programme is a scheme for the adequate supply of good drinking water. Both the addresses deal with this problem within their respective areas. The Municipality refer to the order of Government sanctioning the Water Works Scheme and a grant of Rs. 38,000 and a loan of Rs. 5,000. I hope it may be possible to make provision in the budget of 1930-31 for the payment of the loan and of the balance of the grant, Rs. 27,000—Rs. 11,000 having already been paid. The amount will be payable when local contributions have been fully realised: when this is done, it is hoped that a start will be made with the project next year.

The District Board have applied to Government for a loan of Rs. 1,00,000, in connection with their water-supply scheme in rural areas. The matter of general policy has been under the consideration of Government for some time, and it has become necessary to modify and define the previous proposals of Government as expressed in 1927. Fresh general orders on the subject are being issued, and you may rest assured that every effort will be made to push on with your proposals for a loan as soon as possible, if funds can be found for it in the coming financial year.

With reference to the request of the Municipality for a grant to enable them to take up the supplementary drainage scheme, no project for such a scheme has yet reached Government. When it is

received, the claims of the Municipality for a grant-in-aid will be considered as favourably as possible with the advice of the Sanitary Board.

The Municipality have also brought to my notice their grievances in connection with the income from the ferry Jhoughatta Ramnagar in the Municipal limits, the major portion of which is enjoyed by the District Board. This is a long-standing dispute and it is understood the Commissioner has submitted proposals which would appear to be more favourable to the Municipality as compared with the arrangements existing since 1904, and these are now under the consideration of Government.

I am glad to know that the District Board appear to express their appreciation of the transference to them of the proceeds of certain ferries and I hope that this additional income will enable them to meet the necessary requirements of social service.

The Municipality ask for a grant to meet the entire initial expenditure and a substantial part of the recurring expenditure of a scheme for the introduction of free primary education. In order to encourage Local Bodies to start and spread primary education within the limits of their authority, Government have promised to share equally with them the initial and recurring expenses of any scheme of which they are able to approve. I regret that I cannot advise Government to depart from this declared policy by extending more generous treatment to any particular Municipality.

Most of the addresses contain a request for the permanent establishment of a Court of a Subordinate Judge vested with powers of an Assistant Sessions

Judge at Malda. The posting of additional judicial officers is primarily a matter for the High Court. No proposal for the permanent posting of a Sub-Judge has been received from that Court, and from past experience it appears that the work can be managed with occasional temporary assistance.

It is very gratifying to know that the Union Board movement has been making such good progress in this district. The District Board ask for the establishment of two Local Boards in the district—one in the southern and the other in the northern part. Government have sanctioned the establishment of only one such Board with headquarters at Englishbazar with effect from 1st March 1930. Government are not at present convinced that more than one Local Board is necessary for this comparatively small district, but will watch carefully the results of the working of the Board already sanctioned and will consider later whether there would be any practical advantage in creating another.

I am glad the District Board have taken special interest in the question of lac cultivation in the district. The proposal for the establishment of a school where the cultivators could be given proper education as regards the lac crop, and, to which should be attached an experimental farm or nursery where good seed can be obtained at the proper time is worthy of careful consideration. Both the Government of Bengal and the Government of India are fully aware of the importance of the lac industry to this district. During the past two years the Industry Department have demonstrated with success an improved method of refining the raw material, and these operations will be continued.

Proposals are at present under examination for the reorganisation of the committee which has the charge of the research work carried on at the Lac Institute at Ranchi, with the object of making it more representative of the interests concerned and learning the views of the cultivators and hearing their difficulties. It is hoped that the investigation now in progress will result in a supply of pure seed and the spread of information regarding the diseases which do so much harm to the lac producing insects. These investigations take time, but I can assure you that the authorities concerned are fully alive to your difficulties and will do all that is possible to encourage the industry which is a source of income to the people of this district.

- The Malda Association ask for the construction of a bridge over the Mahananda. I fully realise the inconvenience of having no bridge between the town and the railway station. This is a matter in which the initiative should be taken by the District Board and the Municipality, and if they can prepare a scheme which might be financed partly or entirely by the levy of tolls, Government will be prepared to consider the question of helping them.

With regard to the question of making the river Kalindri navigable throughout the year, I am informed that to do this by improving the inflow from the Ganges into the Kalindri would involve an almost prohibitive cost. The problem is not merely one of introducing more water by dredging the mouth of the Kalindri, but the improvement of a long length of the river itself. The Chief Engineer recently visited the locality on two occasions

and he is of opinion that the desired results would not ensue from the suggested dredging operations.

I was interested in the suggestion of the Muhammadan Association for the introduction of improved implements for cultivators and the improvement of irrigation by cheap and practicable methods. The Department of Agriculture is now examining the many valuable recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture, some of which deal with the subjects referred to in the address. The possibility of supplying improved ploughs and other implements at a price within the reach of an ordinary cultivator is now being investigated. It is hoped that as a result of the investigation some suitable types of pumping plant for the areas concerned may be discovered. I trust, therefore, you will accept my assurance that there is no line of investigation in agricultural improvement which is being overlooked. It is only the difficulty of finding money that stands in the way of Government making more rapid progress in this department.

I am glad to notice that you appreciate the value of the Co-operative movement and the Muhammadan Association ask for the gradual extension of the co-operative system. I have no doubt the Banking Committee which is now engaged in its enquiries will examine in detail the present position of co-operative banking in this Province and my Government will not fail to take advantage of their recommendations in its efforts to carry the movement into the most remote villages of the Province.

On the question of increase of Muhammadan holidays I would like to point out that the number

of general holidays is already large and in the general interests of the community Government are averse to increasing their number. Civil Court holidays are regulated by the High Court under the Civil Courts Act. I am informed that the Malda District enjoys four local holidays only and your request for an additional day on the occasion of the Pandua Fair will be carefully considered. As it is the practice for Civil Courts to be closed on local holidays observed in executive offices, the High Court will be consulted and your local officers will also be asked to advise and to ascertain and report public opinion on the suggestion. As regards fixing the dates of the general Muhammadan festivals, the difficulties in predicting the exact dates, which depend on the visibility of the moon, are well-known. But when information that the dates have not been accurately predicted is obtained in sufficient time, Government always consider whether the notified dates can be changed without causing general dislocation of public and private business.

The Muhammadan Association ask for a grant towards the construction of a suitable building for the Jalalia Girls' School. Government are in fullest sympathy with any scheme for improving the education of girls, provided that the scheme is the outcome of real enthusiasm on the part of the public and provided that the public are willing to come forward with help of their own. I understand that the Jalalia Girls' School is wholly composed of small girls in the lowest classes and I think that no real benefit can be derived from primary or any other education till girls are kept at school long enough to gain some real and lasting benefit. I

would advise you to address the Inspectress of Schools on the subject of a building grant and I am sure she will give the matter adequate consideration.

Let me express once more, on behalf of Lady Jackson and myself, our grateful thanks for the cordiality of the welcome which you have accorded us.

***His Excellency's Addresses to recipients
of 'Sanads' at the public reception at
Malda on 4th December 1929.***

KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI KADER BAKSH,

In recognition of your public services you were awarded the title of Khan Sahib in 1915. Since then you have continued with unabated energy to associate yourself with public affairs and as Chairman of the District Board have rendered conspicuous service to this district. As a leader of Muhammadan opinion in Malda you have loyally supported local officers who have benefited by your advice. You have fully earned the advancement to the higher title of Khan Bahadur.

RAI PANCHANAN MAZUMDAR BAHADUR.

In appreciation of your public services you were created a Rai Sahib in 1921. You have taken a prominent part in all matters of public interest and unselfishly worked for the good of the people of the district. Your work as Chairman of the District Board is greatly appreciated. You are the originator of the Co-operative movement in the district and are the President of the Malda Central Bank. You founded the Akrurmani H. E. School which, largely owing to your personal interest, has made steady progress. You have carried your duties as a Municipal Commissioner and Government Pleader with conspicuous success. Your services during the war and the non-co-operation movement were invaluable to the district authorities. I congratulate you upon the distinction conferred upon you.

RAI SAHIB PYARI LAL NEOGY,

Having retired from the service of Government with a highly creditable record, you have done good service to Government in your capacity as an Honorary Magistrate. It is owing to your efforts that the Barlow Girls' School, of which you are the Secretary, has been so successful. You have also done good work as a Municipal Commissioner. Your public services and your loyal support to Government have earned for you the title of Rai Sahib.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI MOBARAK ALI,

Under your Headmastership the Malda Zilla School has been conspicuously successful. Your deep interest in all educational matters and the knowledge you gained in England and Germany of the educational systems obtaining in those countries, has proved a great advantage which is appreciated by the educational authorities.

I congratulate you.

RAI SAHIB SURENDRA NATH BASU,

Largely owing to your efforts in connection, with the Sericultural Department of Government, you have succeeded in creating a proper appreciation of the Department among the silk worm rearers, especially in Malda. Outside your own duties you have done much to assist the advance of cottage industries and co-operative societies. I congratulate you.

RAI SAHIB BISHNU CHARAN BANNERJEE,

During the famine in Malda district in 1927-28, you rendered invaluable assistance to the district

authorities, as President and Secretary of the Gomasthapur Relief Committee. You organised relief parties, imported cheap rice and maize, distributed seed loans after personal enquiries in the villages and organised the distribution of gratuitous relief in Gomasthapur thana. You have fully merited the title of which I have great pleasure in handing you the Sanad.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Addresses
presented at Berhampore, on 5th De-
cember 1929.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am very grateful for the kind welcome which you have extended to Lady Jackson and myself on the occasion of our visit to this District of Murshidabad which is so full of historic memories and where so many of my personal friends reside.

I must thank the Murshidabad Municipality, the District Board and the Muhammadan Association for their addresses. I welcome the opportunity of visiting the various districts in the Presidency and of learning direct from the people themselves their needs and conditions and how they propose to improve them.

I am conscious that we meet to-day under the shadow of grief owing to the lamented death of one of your most eminent inhabitants. It was with sincere sorrow that I heard of the death of Maharaja Sir Manindra Chandra Nandi of Cossimbazar. I was privileged to know him well and greatly valued his friendship. He was a man with a high sense of duty and integrity of character and his generous benefactions in all directions will never be forgotten. By his death Bengal loses a noble and worthy son.

The District Board has presented to me a rather gloomy picture of the conditions of this district. I am unfortunately well aware that for many months in the year malaria and other epidemic diseases are rife, which seriously affect the agricultural and industrial prosperity of the people.

The members of the Board and the Municipal Commissioners bewail their limited resources and ask for more Government help to enable the necessary measures to be taken to improve the sanitary condition of the district. Government's resources are limited and their responsibilities widespread, but they are aware of the unfortunate conditions prevailing in this district and are most anxious to do everything in their power to alleviate the distress.

I am informed that since 1924-25 Government's contributions to the District Board for the improvement of sanitation have increased from Rs. 5,000 to more than Rs. 36,000 in 1928-29. The revenues of one provincial ferry have been transferred to the District Board and of two to the Municipality. The policy of making grants-in-aid to District Board for public health work in connection with the scheme for subsidising rural health units in each thana will, I hope, prove an additional assistance to you. This assistance should be supplemented by Municipalities and District Boards by the exercise of the powers they have of raising money from their own resources to pay for the amenities they provide.

You are probably right in ascribing to some extent the cause of the decline in general health and prosperity in this district to the gradual silting up of the big rivers. I have taken considerable personal interest in the problem of irrigation in this district and have endeavoured to make myself acquainted with the conditions. Last year accompanied by the Chief Engineer of Bengal and the Consulting Engineer to the Government of India, I paid a visit to the intakes of the Bhagirathi and

Jalangi, when I had the opportunity of having explained to me by experts the difficulties of assuring a water-supply to Central Bengal. The problem of water-ways in this Province has been receiving the earnest attention of Government for sometime. It has now been decided to set up an Expert Committee of the most experienced Irrigation Engineers we can secure to examine the whole question of the irrigation policy of the Province, who will make a report to Government as to the lines upon which our agricultural and health progress might best be secured within the limits of our resources. The condition of the Bhagirathi and Jalangi will have a prominent place in their deliberations.

It will be well that I should point out to you the difficulties with which the Irrigation Department are faced in this connection. The Chief Engineer again inspected the Bhagirathi and Jalangi Rivers within the boundaries of this district in September last. There has been a change in the Bhagirathi which has been going on since 1912, under which the supply to the river has decreased. This diminution in the supply is due to natural causes over which we have no control. The intake of the Bhagirathi River from the Ganges used to be many miles further upstream than it is to-day, and the result is that the Bhagirathi receives water from the Ganges at a lower level than it used to. In order to maintain the supply to this river as long as possible, the head shoals are trained yearly by bandals; but the bed of the river itself is higher than the low water level in the Ganges in the dry season and, therefore, it is not possible to maintain a flow of water throughout the year. As a rule the

supply is cut off about the end of November and is restored about the beginning of July. The question is not one of dredging a few small bars on the river, because there is an almost continuous bar of sand for many miles from the head, and even though dredging were resorted to, it would only have a temporary effect. The Jalangi river is now fairly active. A new intake was opened in July 1927, since when there has been a continuous supply throughout the year from the Ganges.

The extension of Irrigation works in this district is particularly difficult in view of the fact that much of the land lies above the level of the rivers. It is, however, possible that in conjunction with certain schemes that Government are now working up in the Birbhum district, irrigation water may be supplied to certain areas in the western part of the district from the river More. In the deltaic portion of the district it seems that what is required, from the point of view of agriculture, is the clearance of the old tanks.

The Gobra Nala works were opened this year with a view to flushing some 40 miles of the Gobra Nala, where the water was in a very stagnant condition. The Chief Engineer inspected these works in September last, and found that this old river bed was receiving a thoroughly good flush from water drawn in from the Ganges. The supply had to be restricted in July and August, because some areas of *aus* paddy lay in the way, and unless the supply had been reduced, this crop would have been damaged. The question of acquiring this small area of land is under consideration, so that there may be no interruption in the supply in future years.

When the Chief Engineer visited these works several complaints were preferred to the effect that the crops were suffering for want of water, and for a similar reason jute steeping was seriously impeded. He gave orders permitting some cuts to be made in the channel banks to enable the people to obtain a supply of water. I personally regard the maintenance and development of waterways in this Province, as one of the most important problems which calls for immediate action, and Government are giving special attention to this question.

As regards the Local Self-Government Act which you consider requires amendment, Government are fully aware of the necessity of some amendment to meet modern needs. In view, however of the larger constitutional issues which are now in front of us, it is I think, hardly likely that the question of amending the Act can seriously be taken up at this moment.

Both the District Board and the Muhammadan Association refer to the Primary Education Bill and suggest a reduction in the rate of taxation, whilst the District Board claims the sole controlling agency in the district in any scheme for the expansion of Primary Education. The Bill has been dealt with by a Select Committee whose report has not yet been submitted. Their suggestions about the rate of assessment cannot be anticipated. Government are of opinion that Special District School Boards with the District Magistrate as Chairman should control primary education in districts. I fear Government cannot accept the District Board's claim for control in view of the policy already adopted.

My attention has been drawn to the failure of crops and the resulting distress in the Kandi Sub-division. Government are watching the situation in this Sub-division and should it be necessary, the Local Bodies will be invited to co-operate with Government in inaugurating such measures of relief as may be decided upon. I understand, however, that there has been some improvement in the prospects of crops owing to the beneficial rain of late October. If funds are required for agricultural loans, demands of local officers will be sympathetically met. I should be pleased if I could see any prospect of taking up the construction of the Sainthia Beramara Railway line as a relief measure, but I fear there seems no chance of this at present.

In the District Board's address, it is suggested that the old Trunk Road from Calcutta to Darjeeling, passing through Berhampore and Lalgolaḡhat might be reconstructed. I am glad to say that road development is now a reality: but I would remind you that the ultimate control is in the hands of the Central Government. The Local Government, however, have recently made a general survey of all the main roads in the Province and amongst these are included the various District Board roads passing through your district and forming a link between Calcutta and Darjeeling. The exact procedure whereby the proceeds of the Road Fund will be expended or distributed has not yet been settled, but your roads will not be forgotten and the advantages of utilising the route through your district from Calcutta to Northern Bengal will not be overlooked. The fact that in earlier years travellers to Northern Bengal passed through Berhampore and Lalgolaḡhat

indicates that this alignment has some advantages and this will be carefully examined before any decision is made.

The Muhammadan Association complain of the inadequacy of the Madrasah Reformed Scheme and ask for increased grants-in-aid for the senior Madrasah at Jangipur. I am well-aware of the growing dissatisfaction with the results of Madrasahs, both reformed and unreformed, in Bengal. The question of improvement is engaging the serious attention of the Intermediate Board at Dacca and of the Department of Public Instruction in Calcutta. I hope some way may be found to satisfy the demands of Muslims for an education which, while it does not neglect the religious side, will be able to produce men fit and able in competition to take their places in public life. I fear that funds for grants to High Madrasahs are limited and only, when more money is available, will it be possible to increase the amount of financial assistance at present being given to the Jangipur Madrasah.

It is understood that the prescribed percentage of Muhammadan employees has already been reached in the Murshidabad Collectorate, which shows that the rules have been strictly observed. The question whether there is a dearth of qualified Muhammadan candidates and whether the vacancies should be advertised or not, is one for the local officers to consider and decide.

Gentlemen, I thank you again for the cordiality of your welcome and for the good wishes expressed in the addresses.

***His Excellency's Speech on the occasion
of presenting Colours to the Calcutta
Scottish on 8th December 1929.***

MAJOR ELLIOTT, OFFICERS AND MEN, CALCUTTA
SCOTTISH,

I greatly appreciate the honour which falls to me to-day of presenting new Colours to your Battalion. This honour comes to me primarily as Governor of the Presidency, but it is an additional pleasure and pride on such an occasion to know that I am privileged to be your Honorary Colonel.

The presentation of new Colours must always be regarded as a solemn and significant occasion in the annals of a Regiment. The Colours are emblems of their King and country, in whose interests all ranks bind their services.

There can be no Unit in the British Forces in which this obligation is more readily and loyally accepted than by the Calcutta Scottish. The Corps was formed on the out-break of War in August 1914, when you rightly modelled yourselves upon that distinguished Territorial Unit—the London Scottish, whose efficiency and record of service are a matter of national pride. Though you could not, as an Unit, proceed to the theatre of War, many of your numbers joined other Units and served with distinction and credit. Throughout the War you carried out important duties in connection with internal security, since when on several occasions you have rendered valuable assistance to the civil authorities.

Every one must admire those young men who join up in Auxiliary Units, which involves considerable sacrifice of time and leisure and for which

the only recompense is the knowledge that they are doing their duty.

The Calcutta Scottish deserve to be supported in all quarters and I hope young Scots coming to Calcutta will appreciate the advantage of joining the Corps. Your officers are promoted from the ranks. In case of need it is probable that your Battalion will be one of those which the authorities would look to for the supply of officers and every man in the Battalion should keep this possibility in front of him. I feel sure the most particular Inspecting Officer would be pleased with your turn out and appearance on Parade to-day, which is a sign of careful training and efficiency.

I do not think I should let this occasion pass without referring to certain members of the Corps who have during the past 15 years contributed in special degree to the success of your Regiment. I should like to mention especially your first Colonel Sir T. W. Richardson and Captain J. B. Ross, who I understand were mainly instrumental in the raising of your Corps. From that time you have been fortunate in your Commanding Officers—Major Brown, Colonel Tennant, Colonel Craddock, and your present Commanding Officer, Major Law, who, I am sorry to see, is not on parade with you on this historic occasion.

It is with every confidence that I have handed over these Colours to your custody. Your record in the past fully justifies the belief that you will guard them and honour them and in every way prove worthy of that traditional devotion and loyalty which have ever been the pride and glory of the Scottish soldiers of the King.

***His Excellency's Speech at the College Day
celebration of the Scottish Churches
College on 9th December 1929.***

GENTLEMEN,

It gives Lady Jackson and myself much pleasure to have this opportunity of paying our second visit to the Scottish Churches College on the occasion of your College Day.

The Scottish Churches College justly holds a high position amongst the educational institutions in India. This position it has gained through its successful record which is a testimony to those who have been responsible for its administration in the past. The College has unfortunately suffered this last year by the loss of the services of two eminent members of the staff by the death of Dr. Ewan and the retirement of Dr. Watt. Their names will long be remembered not only as teachers but for their valuable social services in the life of this city.

I feel sure that all who are here to-day and those who have passed through the College must be grateful for its existence and remember with thankfulness the pious memory of the Founder, Dr. Duff, and that band of devoted men by whose selfless efforts the foundations of this Institution were well and truly laid 100 years ago. The continuous endeavours of their successors inspired by their example has placed the College in a secure position of prominence amongst educational establishments in India. No mission in life can command such admiration as one which facing and surmounting

great difficulties, brings the light of learning within the reach of men and women eager for its advantages, but where the opportunity is denied.

We have heard the report of the Principal with interest and satisfaction and much pleasure. His report indicates a record of steady progress. Academically you have fairly maintained your usual standards and the social life of the College has been active and success in various open competitions has come your way.

There are two or three matters in the report which I should like to refer to. I was interested to hear of the growing number of girl students receiving education in this College. This is a satisfactory and welcome development: an enlightened womanhood is vital to national progress. I heartily congratulate that young lady who stood second at the Intermediate Examination in the whole University in combined subjects.

Another matter which attracted my attention was that the number of students coming for Collegiate education is generally decreasing. I do not know the cause, but this decision is general. If this indicates that boys who are not considered likely to be successful at the University are being directed to other openings which would appear to offer a better chance in the future, there is perhaps no serious cause for alarm at the falling off in numbers, but it would appear desirable that the real cause should be carefully investigated.

I am glad to hear of the interest which is being taken in the College athletics and that full use is being made of the playing field. This is largely due, I understand, to the enthusiasm and efforts of

Mr. Mowat supported by the members of the Athletic Committee. I am also glad to hear that the new Pavilion, which was opened last year and to which Government made a grant of Rs. 10,000, is appreciated and has been made full use of.

As regards the possibility of Government foregoing the rent of the playing field, unless I am much mistaken, I should not find Government, at this moment, in a position to forego any of its income. They are fully occupied trying to find some way to be able to balance their budget.

We are all interested in the future of the College. Success must depend largely upon the sympathetic understanding and respect which exist between the administration and the students. The College is carried on for the benefit of those who come here to learn and prepare themselves in mind and body for the sterner competition in life. The object of the College is to give of its best in your interests and it asks and expects in return from the students confidence and consideration, and that respect for experience and authority which is fundamental to the smooth running and success of any teaching Institution. If this College is to be able to do its best work in the interests of the students, it must be kept immune from outside influence likely to disturb the even tenor of its ways.

In your Principal, Dr. Urquhart, you have one whose sympathetic nature, broad-mindedness and experience deserve your confidence. His labours in the interest of education in this city and Presidency are greatly appreciated by all those associated with him. As Vice-Chancellor of the University, he

renders invaluable service to higher education. This College has reason to be proud of the unique distinction the Principal carries of being Vice-Chancellor and at the same time Head of this College. I hope you will lighten his work by assuring him a generous support.

I congratulate all the prize-winners and wish you all continued success. I pray that the good work this College is doing may continue to prosper.

His Excellency's Addresses to the gentlemen invested at the Durbar in Calcutta on 10th December 1929.

MR. NAGENDRA NATH GANGULEE, C.I.E.,

In appreciation of your services as a member of the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India, His Imperial Majesty has been graciously pleased to appoint you to be a Companion of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire.

In the name of the King-Emperor of India and by His Majesty's Command, I invest you with the Honourable Badge of the Order.

Dr. CHARLES ALBERT BENTLEY, C.I.E.,

For 19 years you have rendered valuable service in this Presidency in your capacity as Director of Public Health. You have discharged your onerous duties with distinction and your work has been highly appreciated both by Government and the public. The Honour which has been conferred upon you is a fitting recognition of your excellent and beneficial services.

In the name of the King-Emperor of India and by His Majesty's Command, I invest you with the Honourable Badge of the Order of the Indian Empire of which Most Eminent Order His Imperial Majesty has been graciously pleased to appoint you to be a Companion.

MR. NIRMAL CHUNDER SEN, C.B.E.,

In recognition of your services as Adviser, Education Department, in the Office of the High

Commissioner for India, you have been appointed to be a Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I hand to you the Badge of a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

MAHAMAHOPADHYAYA PANDIT SITARAM SHASTRI
SHENDEY,

You are a Sanskrit Scholar of vast erudition. For the last 11 years you have been lecturing to advanced students of the Calcutta University in the Department of Sanskrit, on the abstruse subjects of Veda and Vyakarana, and the philosophical systems of Nyaya, Sankhya and Yoga. You have edited with admirable success, difficult works like Laghumanjusa, with its two commentaries, and Siddhanta-Sudhanidhi. You are in charge of the publication of the Satapatha Brahmana with Sayana's Commentary in the series published by the Bengal Asiatic Society. Your high attainments are generally acknowledged and the title of Mahamahopadhyaya is a suitable recognition of your life and work.

CAPTAIN BERNARD ANSON WESTBROOK, O.B.E.,

You were awarded the King's Police Medal in 1917 in appreciation of your valuable work in the Police Department. Under your control the Calcutta Fire Brigade has attained a standard of great efficiency. During the Calcutta riots of 1926, the Calcutta Fire Brigade did most admirable work under your control and supervision.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I present you with the Badge of an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

RAI JNANENDRA NATH RAY BAHADUR, I.S.O.,

You received the title of Rai Bahadur in 1921 in recognition of your valuable service in the Bengal Civil Service, since when you have ably administered the Registration Department.

His Majesty the King-Emperor has been pleased to appoint you a Companion of the Imperial Service Order, of which I have now the pleasure of presenting to you the Badge.

MR. DAVID FISHER M.B.E.,

You have more than 20 years service in the Police Department and have held the rank of Assistant Commissioner since 1918. You were awarded the King's Police Medal in recognition of your valuable services in connection with the riots in Calcutta in 1926. Under your charge a high standard of efficiency and discipline in the Headquarters Force consisting of 200 sergeants and approximately a thousand other ranks has been maintained.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I present you with the Badge of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

DR. GEORGE BARNES ARCHER,

Coming to India from Canada in 1907 for many years you have identified yourself with the work of

the Medical Mission at Dayabari in the district of Nadia. You have unselfishly devoted your skill to the needs of those who have come to the Mission for medical help. The Dayabari Hospital is one of the most efficient Missionary hospitals in Bengal. Your reputation extends throughout Bengal and your devotion has earned for you the affection and respect of all classes in the district of Nadia and far beyond.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I present you with *Kaisar-i-Hind* Medal, First Class, for public service in India.

RAI BIJAY GOPAL CHATTERJI BAHADUR,

You have rendered long and exemplary service in the Bengal Civil Service (Judicial) in appreciation of which the title of Rai Bahadur has been conferred upon you.

RAI NALINI KANTA BASU BAHADUR,

You are a distinguished member of the Bengal Civil Service (Judicial) and your appointment as a District and Sessions Judge in 1927 and later as an officiating Additional Judge of the High Court bears testimony to your ability as a Judicial Officer. In appreciation of your services the title of Rai Bahadur has been conferred upon you.

RAI RAMAPADA CHATTERJI BAHADUR,

In recognition of your services in the Bengal Civil Service you received the title of Rai Sahib in 1919. Since then by conscientious work you have maintained your reputation as a capable Revenue Officer and have well earned your advancement to the higher title.

RAI HIRA LAL SINGH BAHADUR,

For more than 34 years you have rendered valuable service in the Medical Department. Your devoted and conscientious work in the Chemical Examiner's Department evoked high commendation from all the officers under whom you worked and you fully deserve the honour now conferred upon you.

RAI MONORANJAN MALLIK BAHADUR,

You were appointed Government Pleader of the Calcutta Improvement Trust Tribunal in 1914 and have had sole charge of the defence in all valuation cases. You have shown a high degree of zeal, industry and ability in defending land acquisition and valuation cases before the Tribunal on behalf of Government and the Calcutta Improvement Trust. In recognition of your services the title of Rai Bahadur has been conferred upon you.

RAI TARINI CHARAN BHATTACHARJI BAHADUR,

You joined the Bengal Secretariat in the Public Works Department in 1896 and by merit and ability rose to the position of Assistant Secretary to Government in the Irrigation Department in 1922. Your excellent services were recognised by the award of the title of Rai Sahib in 1915 and and since then you have continued to be of the greatest assistance to your official superiors. Your intimate knowledge of departmental rules and practice has been invaluable. Your long and meritorious services deserve your promotion to the higher title of Rai Bahadur.

RAI TARAK CHANDRA DATTA BAHADUR,

You were awarded the title of Rai Sahib in 1922 in recognition of your exceptionally meritorious work in the Dacca Medical School. You have since worked with your customary zeal and ability and have loyally kept the interests of the School at heart. Your advancement to the higher title of Rai Bahadur is a fitting recognition of your long and devoted service.

RAI BAN BEHARI MUKHARJI BAHADUR,

You joined the Calcutta Police in 1916 and by consistently good work have risen to the rank of Assistant Commissioner. You were awarded the King's Police Medal in 1919 for gallantry and were made a Rai Sahib in 1922 in recognition of the excellent work you did in the Special Branch in connection with the revolutionary movement. You have continued to do valuable work in the Special Branch and have given loyal assistance to the Deputy Commissioner in charge of the Department. Your work throughout has been of outstanding merit and you have well earned the advancement to the higher title.

RAI DURGA PROSAD GHOSH BAHADUR,

Having joined the Bengal Civil Service (Judicial) in 1901, by merit and ability you rose to the high office of District and Sessions Judge in 1924. You have done excellent work throughout your service. The distinction conferred upon you has been well earned.

RAI CHUNI LAL SARKAR BAHADUR,

You have done more than 30 years of meritorious work in the Bengal Engineering College, Sibpur, and earned the respect of all for your conscientious and unselfish devotion to duty and the good influence you exercised over the students. Your excellent work in the College has earned for you the title of Rai Bahadur.

RAI TARINI CHARAN SHAHA BAHADUR,

You lately made a gift of all your property, subject to a small allowance for yourself and your wife, to the hospital at Barisal. This exceptionally generous act has made it possible to proceed with the project for a Medical School in Barisal for which an extension of the hospital was essential. It is with most sincere pleasure that I hand you the Sanad of Rai Bahadur in recognition of your noble and generous action.

RAI SATYA CHARAN MUKERJEE BAHADUR,

You are a member of a well-known family of Zamindars of Uttarpara, Hooghly, and you have represented Bengal in the Legislative Assembly since July 1927, where your work has been of great value.

I congratulate you upon the honour which has been conferred upon you.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI ABU AHMAD ABDUL BASIT,

You are a senior officer of the Bengal Civil Service (Executive) with a very creditable record. You are highly respected by your community and your influence in times of communal tension has proved of great assistance.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI ABDUL MUHAIMIN,

You enjoy high respect amongst the Muhammadan community in Calcutta where you are the senior Marriage Registrar. Your service as Muhammadan Marriage Registrar has been consistently good and loyal and I have great pleasure in presenting you with the Sanad.

KHAN SAHIB MIA ABDUL GAFUR SARDAR,

You have most generously supported appeals for charitable, religious and educational purposes in Jessore where you are much respected and hold the position of Matwali. I heartily congratulate you upon the title of Khan Sahib conferred upon you.

RAI SAHIB ADWAITA CHARAN SAMANTA,

As an officer of the Bengal Civil Service you have an excellent record for hard work and capacity. You were successful in restoring peace in Meherpur Subdivision after the riots of 1927 and have done useful work in the Sadar Subdivision of Nadia District in coping with distress.

RAI SAHIB BIPIN BEHARI RAY,

You have done excellent work as Head Assistant in the Accounts Branch of the Public Works Department and later as Assistant Secretary of that Department. You have a record of consistently good work which has been well appreciated by successive Secretaries and your work has invariably been done in the best interest of Government. I congratulate you upon the Honour bestowed in recognition of your loyal service.

RAI SAHIB MANMATHA NATH MUKHERJI,

Joining the Police Department as a Sub-Inspector in 1905 you have risen to the rank of officiating Deputy Superintendent of Police. You have done excellent work in the District Intelligence Branch and the Detective Department for over 7 years. You have officiated as Deputy Superintendent of Police on several occasions with conspicuous ability and your work as Principal of the Detective Training School is most creditable. Your services have been of great value to the Department.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI AKRAMUZZAMAN KHAN,

You were appointed as Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector in 1907 and your record has been uniformly good. You were posted to the Patuakhali Subdivision in 1927 when it was in a deplorable state of communal unrest. With great tact you quickly secured control of the situation and succeeded in promoting harmony between the two communities enabling a settlement to be arrived at which promised to be permanent. This was a remarkable accomplishment, having regard to the fact that Patuakhali was the centre of activities of the non-co-operators. You have fully deserved the distinction conferred upon you.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI SYED SULTAN AHMAD,

As a member of the Provincial Veterinary Service for more than 23 years, you have earned the reputation of an honest and conscientious worker. You have held the post of Vice-Principal of the Bengal Veterinary College on several occasions and

have always acquitted yourself with credit. Your loyal and unostentatious work is an inspiring example to others in the Veterinary Department. Your long and meritorious services have fully earned the distinction conferred upon you.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI ABU MUHAMMAD ARSHAD ALI,

You have done excellent work as Personal Assistant to the Registrar, Co-operative Societies. In recognition of the exceptionally good work you did before your appointment as Personal Assistant and of the valuable assistance which you have given to the Registrar in the latter capacity, you have been awarded the title of Khan Sahib.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI SAIYID MASUN-US-SALEHEEN,

You have been doing excellent work as Sadar Sub-Registrar of the important district of the 24-Parganas. You have always performed your duties with zeal and ability and as a reward for your good and loyal services you have been awarded the title of Khan Sahib.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI MUHAMMAD ISMAIL,

Since your appointment to the Calcutta Police in 1914 you have done consistently good work. You have been employed in the Special Branch for the last three years and have acquitted yourself most creditably in investigation work, requiring tact and perseverance particularly in connection with political cases. You are regarded as one of the most efficient Muslim officers of the Force. I congratulate you on the title conferred upon you.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI NURUZZAMAN,

You have rendered valuable public service and have associated yourself with various public institutions at Bhola. As a member of the Bakarganj District Board, a Commissioner of the Bhola Municipality, a member of the Bhola Local Board and Secretary of the Bhola Central Bank, you have done admirable work in the interest of the people of the locality.

RAI SAHIB ABHAY CHARAN CHATARJI,

You were appointed to the Bengal Civil Service (Executive) in 1918 and have been in charge of the Sadar Subdivision of the Faridpur District since 1926. During the communal troubles in the district of Faridpur, your influence over both communities did much towards preserving the public peace. You are spoken of in the highest terms by your superior officers and as a mark of appreciation of your services, Government have been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Sahib.

RAI SAHIB HIRALAL ROY,

You have a consistently good record in the Bengal Junior Civil Service. Your enterprise and excellent work in the furtherance of the working of the Village Self-Government Act and the Union Board movement have won for you the title of Rai Sahib.

RAI SAHIB AKSHAY KUMAR GUPTA,

You joined the Police Department in 1898 and have done excellent work in the investigation of several important cases. In the Criminal Investigation Department, where you are now employed, you

have proved yourself a competent and trustworthy officer. In appreciation of your long and faithful services the title of Rai Sahib has been conferred upon you.

RAI SAHIB JATINDRA NATH SINGH,

You originally entered the Bengal Police in 1908 and were transferred to the Calcutta Police in 1925, where you have had a most distinguished career. You have been notably successful in detecting professional criminals and have rendered particularly good service in the Special Branch and Arms Smuggling Department. As a detective officer you hold an exceptional position in the Calcutta Police. You were awarded the King's Police Medal in 1916 and your continued good work and whole-hearted devotion to duty have merited further recognition.

RAI SAHIB MAHIM CHANDRA BATABYAL,

You joined the Registration Department in 1899 and after a long record of good service were promoted to be Sadar Sub-Registrar in 1923. You have since distinguished yourself by your ability and efficient discharge of your public duties.

RAI SAHIB HARA CHANDRA MAZUMDAR,

For many years you worked as Head Clerk of the the Presidency College and in this capacity you rendered the greatest assistance to successive Principals. You gave special proof of your worth by your loyalty and help during the deplorable disturbances of 1925 and 1928, and your exemplary services and devotion to duty deserved recognition.

RAI SAHIB SATYENDRA NATH BANERJI,

As an Honorary Magistrate since 1923 you have ungrudgingly performed your duties and are highly reported by the local officers for your zeal and ability. Your good work fully merits the distinction which has been conferred upon you.

RAI SAHIB NAGENDRA KUMAR BOSE,

As President of the Josholong Union Board since its constitution in 1923 you have worked hard and made a success of the Board; Bench and Court. You have raised a considerable amount in voluntary subscriptions for roads and bridges and have started a Union Board village dispensary. You enjoy the reputation of being one of the best Presidents in the Munshiganj Subdivision and your valuable public services deserve recognition.

RAI SAHIB SURENDRA NATH GHOSH,

You have been doing admirable work as Superintendent of the Kashiswari Technical School, Mymensingh, and have never spared yourself to promote its interest. The school owes much of its present satisfactory condition to your exertions and guidance and it is regarded as one of the best Technical Institutions of its kind in the mufassal.

RAI SAHIB KIRAN CHANDRA SINHA,

You have always been an enthusiastic supporter of Union Boards and are president of the Magura Union Board which is one of the most efficient Boards in the district. You conduct the Board on the lines of a municipality with efficient lighting and conservancy arrangements and are doing your utmost to make it a model Board. You have fully earned the title of Rai Sahib.

RAI SAHIB, HARÍ DHON BANNERJEE,

You have rendered efficient and faithful services under the Government of India in the Accounts Department, in recognition of which you have been awarded the title of Rai Sahib.

RAI SAHIB KHETTRA MOHAN BANERJEE,

You have rendered valuable service extending over a period of more than 31 years under the Eastern Bengal Railway, in appreciation of which the title of Rai Sahib has been conferred upon you.

RAI SAHIB KAMINI KUMAR DUTT,

You entered the Postal Department 37 years ago and have served Government with conspicuous ability. In due course you were promoted to the post of Superintendent, Office of the Post Master General, Bengal and Assam Circle, in which capacity your work was always marked with zeal and unstinted devotion to duty.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Muslim
Orphanage, Calcutta, on 4th January
1930.***

SIR ABDELKERIM, MR. ABDUR RAHEEM AND GENTLEMEN,

Lady Jackson and I are very pleased to have been able to accept the invitation, extended to us through Sir Abdelkerim Ghuznavi, to visit the Calcutta Muslim Orphanage this morning. I must thank the boys and girls for the Poem of Welcome they have just recited of which I have fortunately got a translation.

I have listened with much interest to the report which has just been read by Mr. Abdur Raheem and which gave us an account of the origin of the Orphanage, its progress, its objects and its position to-day. There can be no question as to the worthiness of your work and your efforts to help the helpless deserve every encouragement and support.

The objects of your Institution are to help orphan children and waifs and strays by providing as near as possible the family care and upbringing for those who have no family to care for them. The history of your Institution shows steady progress and your objects are well fulfilled by the training and education of the children, in such a way as to enable them to grow up into useful citizens and to face the struggle of life with some chance of success. It is good to hear that your educational progress is such as to warrant the hope that you would be able to turn your school into a high school. I was also interested to hear that European firms provide assistance for the training of

boys in useful trades. I feel that the girls have special need of your help and guidance. Their future must be the most precarious.

You have referred to a grant which the Government of Bengal promised towards the re-building of that portion of your building which collapsed in 1928 with such terrible results and which you say has not yet been paid. The grant has received administrative approval and I am informed that Government will make every endeavour to find the money in the near future. I understand the Orphanage authorities are being requested to relinquish the land at Behala which was made over to them by Government in 1922, but which is now required by the Port Commissioners, and to accept an alternative site for the expansion of the Orphanage. The reason for this is well known to you and I trust you will see your way to accepting an alternative site.

The affairs of the Institution are in good hands and should inspire confidence in those who wish to support it. I have no hesitation in commending it to the charitable public and appealing for their support.

It only remains for me to congratulate the Head master and staff upon their work. I can well understand the satisfaction which must come to them, at seeing children snatched from destitution and helplessness and placed upon the road of life and fairly equipped for a successful passage. I shall not forget the Institution and I can assure you of my personal interest. I wish you all a Happy New Year and continued success in your efforts.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening of
the New Building of the First Calcutta
Boy Scouts Association on . 25th
January, 1930.***

GENTLEMEN,

It must be a matter for satisfaction to any one who has been so long connected with the Boy Scouts movement, as I have, to be present on an occasion of such importance to the progress of the movement in Calcutta. The establishment of a headquarters for Calcutta Scouts in a suitable and permanent abode must be an incident of special interest and, at the same time, an encouragement to the movement and a source of confidence to its supporters and well-wishers.

I listened to your remarks, Mr. Fyfe, with satisfaction and gratitude—satisfaction that you have been able, after much trouble and consideration, to decide to build these quarters, and gratitude to you, and those connected with you, for the trouble and time you have so readily given and which I have no doubt have produced a result which could not have been without your assistance.

I know that you, like me, believe in the value of the Scout movement and are satisfied that the more boys who can be assisted to take advantage of the training and lessons, the better will it be for them and for Calcutta. I like to regard scouting as a great educational medium and I often feel that the curriculum of any school is improved by the allotment of one hour per day for the study of the principles upon which scout movement is based. They are applicable and acceptable to all races and creeds and

to all kinds of boys—big boys and little boys, good boys and bad boys, keen boys and slackers.

I am always very pleased when I see a Scout troop at a school. I find it is generally the case that schools which have good scout troops are efficient. A boy who has proved an efficient scout, earned his badges and acquired self-reliance and self-discipline, should make good and his training should prove a recommendation for him when seeking employment.

We have been fortunate in Calcutta in our leaders. We all realise that our greatest difficulty is—Scout Masters and Leaders.

We have keen and enthusiastic Scout Leaders in Mr. Robertson, District Commissioner, Mr. Watkinson, District Scout Master, and Mr. Hasluck, Assistant Commissioner and Secretary. They know the value of the movement amongst the boys of this country and have done their best to give the advantage of its training to boys.

It has been a great pleasure to me to present the Honourable Charge as Deputy Camp Chief granted by the Chief Scout to the Rev. John Shaw Walsh. He has had long connection with the scout movement and won the King's Scout Badge in Lancashire. Since 1923 he has been a most enthusiastic leader in Ranigunge-Asansole Associations. In 1928 he attended the training camp at Gilwell Park in England and won the Wood Badge. Now that he is in Calcutta he is giving his services, which needless to say we welcome, with great earnestness.

I congratulate the architect of this building, Mr. Matthews, and Mr. J. C. Banerjee, the builder.

His Excellency's Speech at the European Association Dinner on 7th February 1930.

GENTLEMEN,

I greatly appreciate the opportunity which has been afforded me to-night of meeting the members of the Calcutta Branch of the European Association. The duty falls upon me of responding to the toast of The Guests which has been proposed by the Chairman in such kindly and generous terms. There was just one moment when I thought that Mr. Villiers was experiencing some difficulty in dealing with his task. He appeared to express a preference for honouring this toast and some doubt as to the pleasure to be derived from proposing it. However, a little elaboration showed that he was not only pleased to propose the toast but by his kindly remarks made us all feel under obligation for his most cordial welcome.

I was surprised to hear Mr. Villier's remarks that this Branch of the European Association was being resuscitated, as though it had been seriously ill and suffering from inertia and that it had not quite recovered that vitality which it used to possess and which is necessary for its usefulness. It appears that if ever there was a time when such an Association might be expected to perform real useful work, it was under conditions which exist in India to-day and it should not be necessary to have to whip up interest and support.

The European Association of India of which you in Calcutta are an important, or as Mr. Villiers stated, a main branch, has long enjoyed a position of authority and influence and their views and their advice on matters of political interest are welcomed and weighed with the respect due to them by those responsible for the administration of Government both locally and by the Government of India. Their opinions also command the respect of the public in Great Britain, who are ready to regard statements of the European Association in India as authoritative. The value they attach to your views arises from the belief that they are formed upon experience and based upon practical and balanced judgment. Such use of your views must impose additional responsibility upon your conclusions.

I listened with much pleasure to the most interesting and instructive speech of your Chairman this evening and I gathered from his remarks that whilst the objects of the European Association in India are the maintenance of British rights and the protection of European minorities, they are also deeply interested in the welfare of India and its political and social development through the ordinary evolution of political reforms, and they endeavour to enlist the co-operation of all loyal Indians to this end. The latter object has been repeated by Mr. Villiers to-night with some emphasis and it should place you on good terms with all fair-minded Indians. Mr. Villiers said that he regarded the presence of your guests here to-night as a sanction of your policy. If your policy is what I have just stated and which he has slightly elaborated, he may take it that no one will avail himself of the sanction he offers, to express his protest by walking out.

Most of those present here to-night are, I believe, residents of Calcutta and in such a gathering in ordinary times I might be expected to devote some of my remarks to matters of local interest, but I realise, as you do, that these times are not in India ordinary times; the larger political issues must overshadow local affairs in the minds of every one. I gather from the speech of your Chairman to-night that the European Association mainly interests itself in matters of political nature directly affecting the European community in India.

The only matter of local political importance I should like to mention is the prospects of my new Ministry, in a Council which I am hopeful will prove of a more constructive disposition than I have known the last few years. I hope that if they create the same impression upon the public as they have done upon me by their handling of their administrative responsibility in their individual offices, they should meet with general support. Their advent has coincided with the exodus of the Congress party from the Legislative Council, consequent upon the decision of the Congress conference—an action which I do not think my Ministers anticipated, and one which I have little doubt they regard with mixed feelings.

The course events have taken in the political life in India during the last few months is well-known to all here and it is not necessary for me to recapitulate it to-night. It is but natural that it should be followed with deep interest by the Europeans living in India, who largely derive a livelihood in work of one kind or another in which they are engaged. I feel, I am right in

believing that the confidence of all Europeans in India, in the man at the helm upon whom the greatest burden of responsibility rests in these difficult times, remains unshaken, and that we here to-night can assure the Viceroy of our loyal support and sympathy in the discharge of his very onerous duties.

The Viceroy's announcement last November and his declaration of the proposed conference between representatives of political opinions in India and the Indian States with His Majesty's Government undoubtedly created a new situation. The announcement was accorded a favourable reception in all moderate sections of public opinion in India, including a conditional approval by the leaders of the Congress party. The latter, however, soon changed their views with the result that the generous offer which appeared to be the limit of conciliatory effort was definitely rejected and at the conference of the Congress at Lahore a declaration in favour of Independence and severance from British connection was adopted. The proceedings of this conference are fast becoming history which, I feel soon many will wish, had never been made.

By their action the Congress party have placed themselves outside the field of practical politics and cannot be expected to take part in any further negotiations before the future constitution for India is decided by Parliament. In a speech to the Assembly, the Viceroy elaborated his declaration of November last, and his announcement of the intention to proceed with the Conference, regardless of the unfortunate decision of the Congress will, I feel, be welcomed with satisfaction by all Indians.

anxious for their country's political progress, who have the vision to appreciate that real progress can only be established on a basis which will last through orderly evolution of political reforms. It is obvious that real progress in constitutional Government in India cannot be made at break-neck speed without the gravest dangers to the country's general welfare. The views of Congress must not be taken as the views of India. Men of moderate political views recognise the supreme folly of the course upon which the Extremists have decided to embark and they realise the danger not only to any political progress, but also to the peace of the country, if their mad proposals are allowed to take their course unchallenged.

There are signs on all sides that the moderate politician who has for too long been silent and inactive, is now being roused into activity and an opportunity undoubtedly offers itself, as never before, for him to render inestimable service to his country and to protect it from chaos and disaster, which must be the inevitable result of following such a dangerous and irresponsible lead.

I have no doubt that the European Association will continue to discharge its corporate functions in the future as well as it has done in the past. The need of its activities in the future is not likely to be less than it has been in the past. You have expressed your views with some courage upon the complex problem of the future constitution for this country. I agree with Mr. Villiers that in these times each of you carries an individual responsibility and that it is incumbent upon all to cultivate an intelligent interest in the problems which confronts

us in India to-day. You are deeply interested in the welfare of India, and you have not hesitated to express your wish to assist India to progress towards the attainment of its legitimate ambition as a self-governing unit within the British Empire. The easiest and I believe the only way to assure eventual attainment of this position is through mutual understanding that brings good-will and effects the disappearance of fear and suspicion. To this end you are prepared to play your part and you willingly offer your co-operation to all loyal Indians actuated by similar motives.

I am reminded I am responding for Your Guests. On their behalf I thank you for your most generous hospitality and I know I can express on their behalf their best wishes for the future of your Association.

His Excellency's Speech at the Calcutta University Convocation on 8th February 1930.

MR. VICE-CHANCELLOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

A pleasant episode in the discharge of my public duties is to preside as Chancellor of this University over its annual Convocation and to hear from the Vice-Chancellor the reports of steady progress made year by year. This occasion gives me the opportunity of meeting both those who have devoted their lives to the sacred task of the advancement of knowledge and its propagation, and those who have finished the first part of their education and stand expectant at the portals of active life.

I thank you for your welcome and assure you that I fully appreciate the honour which, being the Chancellor of this University, confers on me and the responsibility it entails. It is my desire to do everything I can to forward its interest and to secure its progress.

I listened with great pleasure to the Vice-Chancellor's speech and the excellent advice he addressed to those who have just taken their degrees, and I would ask them to accept my congratulations upon their success and my sincere good wishes for their future.

I should like to remind you of a truth, which your own later experience may enforce, that the most important subjects are not included in the curriculum and the most significant lessons are learnt outside the class room. Your education will

not have been to your best advantage, if you have not learnt from the world outside as well as from books, if beyond history or mathematics you have not gained some knowledge of the secrets of self-reliance and the art of living in a community. National prosperity depends amongst other things on a sound political system, a strong bond of unity and fellowship, a social order that provides fair opportunities for all and industrial and agricultural development. But the true greatness of a nation comes mainly through the character of its citizens. I trust you will take away from these precincts, as you leave them as students, not only that store of learning which you have gathered by your industry, but also high ideals and resolves and a happy recollection of the days you have spent here.

To the Universities, India must look for leaders—political, social and industrial, and the task of direction demands with a pre-eminence in knowledge, a pre-eminence in character.

It is often said that the future must settle its own problems and we are apt to wonder what the members of the rising generation will do. What they will do depends upon what they are, and that largely depends upon what we of the older generation make them. In some respects we recognise our responsibility. We lavish our resources on educational work with considerable freedom, yet we sometimes seem to be more concerned with the machinery of education than with its main purpose of shaping character. But the whole responsibility cannot be cast upon educational establishments. The effectiveness of home influence in building sound character is one of the greatest needs to-day

not only in India, but throughout the world and parents cannot delegate such tasks to others which are so essentially their own.

The function of a University in the State is a large and important one. It involves the provision of opportunities for, and the encouragement of, research and higher scholarship. I was glad to hear from the Vice-Chancellor of the remarkable achievements of Calcutta scholars in these fields and of the reputation they have won by their contributions to different branches of learning. It involves also the duty of training the minds and drawing out the intellectual faculties of the thousands of students under its charge and of equipping them for their several avocations and professions, so that they may readily find for themselves a place in the social order. But more than all else, it involves the forming of the characters of those who by virtue of their opportunities and qualifications should aspire to be the leaders of the community.

I agree with the Vice-Chancellor that these noble and important tasks cannot be properly fulfilled by a University, unless equipped with liberal resources in men and money. In the past, this University has attracted the generosity of wealthy and discriminating benefactors. We all regret and deplore the recent loss of two such benefactors by the death of Maharajadhiraja Sir Rameshwar Singh, of Darbhanga, and Maharaja Sir Manindra Chandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar, and I join with you in your expression of sympathy for their families. But in Bengal, where this University is an object of just pride and affection, there must be many others, who have the means to minister to its needs and enable

it to extend its claim to the gratitude of its alumni and the province they serve.

The appeal made by the Vice-Chancellor for a generous provision for the needs of the University deserves full and sympathetic consideration. As is well known, the Government of Bengal dispose of a revenue, most of the items of which are inelastic and which, in relation to the population, is inadequate to the actual and growing needs of the province. Our resources are comparatively small: they are incapable of large or ready expansion, but from them we have to assume the responsibility for assisting two Universities, a number of high schools greater than those of any other four provinces together, and nearly 60,000 primary schools. As a result of social and economic conditions, higher education has developed in Bengal more rapidly than primary education and established itself more securely, and it has naturally absorbed a large share of the funds available for education. The interim report of the Committee of the Statutory Commission on educational progress points out that while in Madras, of the total educational expenditure in 1927, only 9·7 per cent. was spent on Universities and Colleges, 19·8 on secondary education and 37·7 on primary education, and in Bombay 10·1 on higher education, 19·9 on secondary schools and no less than 52 per cent. on primary schools, the corresponding figures for Bengal were 22·2, 32·3 and 17 per cent. More than half the available money was devoted to mass education in Bombay, while in Bengal we spent more than a fifth on Colleges and Universities and only about a sixth on primary schools. It is true that a large part of the expenditure was met

from fees, but this applies equally to primary and higher institutions in this province. In 1929, a little over 25 per cent. of the expenditure of Government on education was spent on Universities and colleges and only 17 per cent. on primary education.

I do not cite these figures and make these comparisons to suggest that the financial administration of the University is extravagant or that the expenditure on higher education should be reduced. We have heard from the Vice-Chancellor's Report that a competent and industrious Committee has lately investigated the organisation and staffing of the Departments of higher study in the University; and I am sure that they have made their recommendations with due regard to economy consistent with efficiency. But these figures do show that in Bengal we are spending far too little on the education of the masses and that the need of primary education for money presents an incontestable claim. The uplift of the masses is vital to the well-being and development of the country and should be a matter of the deepest interest not only to Government but also to all those who by their education should take an enlightened and liberal view of public affairs.

At the same time, as your Chancellor, I am anxious that the quality of the training imparted by the University should not suffer from lack of funds. Government have to compare and balance the claims of different grades and branches of education; but they will always be responsive to the just demands of an efficient system of higher education. In putting forward our claim to Government, I would suggest that the University will be well advised to go further than present a mere statement that money

is required, and to indicate as clearly as possible the activities for which money is required with an explanation of the importance of the claim that each of these activities will have on Government's funds. My experience leads me to believe that this is necessary to compete successfully with the other demands on Government's resources. I would again express the hope that as in the past, the munificence of public-spirited individuals will come to the assistance of an Institution of such national importance and usefulness. The Vice-Chancellor has pointed out that any attempt to increase the income from fees by the admission of large numbers of students must involve a disastrous lowering of standards and with this view I think there is general agreement. But I should like to suggest for your consideration whether it may not be possible to achieve the same result by raising the rate of fees in the Post-Graduate Department. It is right that elementary education should be cheap so as to be available to all, however poor, but a University education, especially a post-graduate course, cannot be a cheap commodity and those who enjoy it may fairly be asked to contribute a reasonable proportion of its cost.

There is another matter to which I should like to refer once again, namely, the problem of what is termed 'middle class unemployment.' Every year it becomes more acute and affects large numbers, but any effective solution still seems far distant. The Universities in India must be concerned at this difficult problem. A system of higher education cannot justify itself if it takes no account of the social and economic structure of the country for

whose benefit it exists, or of what is to become of those whom it has educated. It must be a mistake when the whole atmosphere of a high school is one of preparation for the University. It might be better if there was some discriminatory diversion of boys obviously unfitted for higher work of University life to careers better suited to their capacity.

This is evidently a problem that asks for your most serious consideration. It has been suggested that the establishment of a University Employment Bureau, while it cannot provide a radical cure, may yet mitigate the extent of the evil.

Last year I referred to the importance of the University obtaining a suitable University playing field. I understand a search was made for a pitch on the maidan, but one is not available. I suggest that such a place would not be suitable. The University should have a ground of its own which it can enclose. I should like to see this accomplished before I relinquish my position as Chancellor and I should be ready to give all the assistance I can to any scheme which is put up.

The educational difficulties that face us in Bengal are neither few nor simple. The lack of money, the backwardness of women's education, the wastage in primary schools, the scarcity of trained teachers, the low standards and inadequate equipment of many institutions of all grades, the absence of any considered and wide system of vocational training, the obstacles in the way of fostering a spirit of friendly activity and corporate fellowship in schools and colleges—these are only some of the more important. But there is no need to despair; a clear appreciation of the nature and magnitude of

of our difficulties must be an incentive to worry out a solution. We have not inherited perfect institutions or ancient traditions, we have had to create them and fashion them suited to the genius of the country. We must not be daunted by our difficulties: let us take pride in surmounting them. But it will need our wisest thought and by learning even from failures we must ruthlessly discard whatever is ineffective or inferior. It will need courage, patience and good-will, but these will be forthcoming with a determination to consider only the welfare of Bengal and the ability of its educational system to give the best possible to the people.

*Address presented by Sir Rabindra Nath Tagore,
at Sriniketan, on 10th February 1930.*

YOUR EXCELLENCIES, AND FRIENDS,

From my young days two things deeply troubled me; one was our education which has the minimum value of life in it and is devoid of true interest in knowledge and culture, and another our village life which has lost most of its living element and been reduced to mere agricultural drudgery—cheerless, vigourless and without the inspiration of mind. Our educational life whose centre is the town and our community life whose centre is the village, both are like river-beds whose living water has lost its current, and depth, and sparkle, and is liable to become unwholesome. And the pain of such impoverishment of soul in our country brought me out from the seclusion of my literary vocation and compelled me, in spite of my meagre means and unresponsive surroundings to establish this institution, one part of which is concerned in education proper, and the other in the village reconstruction work, though they are vitally and intimately related.

Our rural reconstruction work which bears the name Sriniketan was started with the idea that the village in India never can be benefited by charity or desultory instruction from outside, but its ebbing vitality must have its full stream of energy restored to it and its life's functions must work from within.

With this object in view after a long period of strenuous effort several villages in this neighbourhood have at last grouped themselves round this centre in Surul. It has taken a long time for us to

win their confidence and when they had undoubted proofs that we were their friends who had no other purpose in befriending them than their own betterment, they have joined us as co-workers fighting Malaria, improving their roads, developing co-operative medical help and assisting in various other ways themselves and their neighbours.

In former days our villagers mostly depended for their welfare upon the few well-to-do members of their community who owned the responsibility of their wealth and voluntarily submitted themselves to indirect taxation which very often ran to an extravagant length. It gave them prestige and they aspired to win their distinction in society and titles of honour by their open-handed generosity—the titles which they prized more than those from their rulers. In those days wealth in spite of its personal limits truly belonged to the society and, therefore, the interchange of social service and social distinction between the receiver and donor of help took away all indignity from the gift that came to the people from the men of substance. But that condition has been changed and those who are best able to help the community are attracted to the towns, and the natural irrigation of village welfare has been diverted to a channel which in most part is wastefully unproductive. Wealth has become individualistic in character and any occasional charity flowing from it cannot but humiliate its objects and demoralise those who indulge in the luxury of benevolence.

Therefore, now the time has come when the villagers must adjust their minds to the spirit of the present age or they are sure to be defeated in the

race of life. It is woefully evident that the dusk of doom is over these villages that we see around us, the joy of existence is lost for them and the power to resist evils of all kinds.

It is our mission to hearten them, to strengthen their trust in themselves, and to urge them to take up their destiny in their own hand with an intelligent spirit of determination. In the task that we have taken up of making whole the disrupted communal life, of harmonising the divergence between town and village, between classes and masses, we feel no partialities, we acknowledge no antagonism, but eagerly grasp the extended hand of fellowship, wheresoever and by whomsoever offered. It is our special endeavour to reconcile the opposites that beset our wordly life at every turn; creating dissensions which humanity in its progress must heal if it would survive.

Being confident that we have made a proper beginning which has a promise of growth in it, I have had no hesitation in inviting Your Excellencies to take part in its Anniversary Celebration and to claim from the Government an active sympathy which I strongly hope we deserve. I thank Your Excellencies for so kindly responding to our request to participate in our festival.

Your Excellencies' time is short. I will, therefore, not detain you, but conclude by expressing once again, on behalf of all of us of Visvabharati, our cordial welcome and I take this opportunity to introduce to you my friends Mr. and Mrs. Elmhirst but for whose very able collaboration and generous help our work would remain stunted and with a feeble chance of fruitfulness.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Address of
Welcome read by Sir Rabindra Nath
Tagore, Kt., at Sriniketan on 10th
February 1930.***

SIR, RABINDRA NATH TAGORE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I must thank you for so kindly inviting us to take part in your Anniversary Celebration to-day and for the welcome you have accorded to us so delightfully expressed in your address. It is a special pleasure for us to meet—in his own home and in the midst of his people—one whose fame as scholar and poet is world-wide and whose works are so universally esteemed.

Santiniketan and Sriniketan inspire an ideal which comprehends life in all its aspects—the economic life of the husbandman and the striving of the thinker after truth and of the artist after the beautiful.

You have informed us in your address what the objects are you strive for. What you appear to be doing here is to encourage voluntary effort by the villagers, guided by students of the traditions of the ancient Hindu village system, through the modern machinery of a Co-operative Health Association for village improvement. You endeavour to awaken the latent will of the village people to better their lives. I am much impressed by what you have told us, with all your reverence for the old structure of village society, of the immense change in the orientation of village life and the necessity of the villagers adjusting their minds to the spirit of the

age. In your rural reconstruction work you are guided by the conviction that the villagers must be vitalised by a spirit working from within. With this I cordially agree. Material help and instruction from outside can never be fruitful unless and until the villagers are persuaded, through the gaining of their confidence, that their destiny is in their own hands and the measure of their progress is their own energy and enthusiasm.

I believe that in the Union Board system you have a machinery of rural advance which, with the aid of village-by-village effort like your own, can really reconstruct the village life of Bengal. The Bengal Village Self-Government Act enables any Union Board, if it has the will, to do through the process of law what your Co-operative Health Society aim at, namely, sanitary improvement, medical relief, education, improvement of roads and tanks and so on. If in every Bengal village the type of corporate feeling which exists here was created, the villagers would soon become aware that their economic and social progress depends upon the improvement of their minds and methods. I shall welcome the day when an organisation like yours here is reproduced in other parts of the Presidency and the villages become linked up with Union Boards. A model village in every thana would prove of great missionary importance.

I have been impressed by what I have seen. I agree that the result of your endeavours so far justifies your hoping for the future, and I am glad that I can offer you that practical sympathy you request from Government. The value of the work done here deserves sympathy and encouragement.

On the advice of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture and Industries Department, and to encourage the industrial branch of the Viswa Bharathi Institute, it has been decided to arrange for a non-recurring grant of Rs. 5,000 to supplement its capital expenditure. The Hon'ble Mr. Farouki after reading the report of the Director of Industries is satisfied that good progress has been made to popularise several cottage industries in the locality. Further, the Agricultural work done under the control of the Institute has been of a valuable character and, subject to the vote of the Legislative Council, Government propose to sanction a non-recurring grant of Rs. 9,000 spread over three years, that is Rs. 3,000 a year to enable the Institute to develop its agricultural branch. I hope others will learn from your endeavours and earn similar recognition.

I am glad to have the privilege of meeting Mr. and Mrs Elmhirst to whose practical encouragement, I understand, you owe much. I should like to express to them our appreciation of their assistance they have given in the past and I hope that the decision of Government which I have just announced may convince them that we regard the work here worthy of support.

To you, Sir Rabindra Nath, I offer our best wishes and trust that you may long be spared to continue your good work which your striking personality and soulful character pervade and illumine.

***Mrs Excellency's Speech at the opening of
the Abdulpur-Nawabganj Railway on
11th February 1930.***

MR. MAFLIN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I must first express my pleasure at being accorded the privilege of taking part in the opening ceremony of the Abdulpur-Nawabganj Railway, an occasion which must be of special interest and satisfaction to the district it will serve. The fact that 30 years have passed since this Railway was first contemplated indicates that its construction has long been recognised as a necessity. Amongst other difficulties it has apparently taken a considerable time to decide the best alignment to follow, but after what Mr. Maflin has told us, I gather the best route in the general interest has been found and I feel sure it will prove of the greatest benefit to the district and its inhabitants.

Travelling through Bengal, one is struck by the isolation of many villages and, in this district, of townships of considerable importance. It is easy to understand the difficulties that arise under such conditions. The cost of transport must be high, travelling is a burden, and postal communication is slow and defective. The lack of good communications stunts development. The area now opened up was particularly isolated, bounded as it is on the south by the Ganges and on the east and west by the main railway lines at Sara and Godagari running more or less north and south. Between these two main lines there has hitherto been no means of communication, unless one goes as far north as Dinajpur.

This great difficulty has now been removed, and the headquarters of the district has been brought into easy and rapid communication with the outside world in both directions, east and west. There should be little doubt that the opening out of this communication should increase development and help the prosperity of the district.

I was particularly interested to hear that the Public Health Committee appointed by the Government of Bengal to co-operate with the railway authorities has proved a wise and sound decision. This Committee was appointed for the purpose of watching and assuring public health requirements and of safeguarding the waterways on which the prosperity of agriculture so much depends. Mr. Mafra expressed the hope that similar committees will be appointed for future railway projects. I have no doubt, in view of the results obtained from this Committee, that this procedure in connection with all railway projects will be adopted in future.

Fifty seven miles have been constructed in 15 months after the first location survey. It involved working through the monsoon of 1928 under very difficult conditions,—a very creditable achievement upon which I offer the Engineers and all concerned our sincere congratulations. Credit must be especially awarded to Mr. Taylor, Executive Engineer, and his assistants.

In declaring the line open for all traffic, I hope that it will add greatly to the health, wealth and prosperity of the people of this part of the country.

His Excellency's Speech at the Motor Industries Association Dinner on 14th February 1930.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It is a great pleasure for me to attend this dinner to-night and to meet the members of the Motor Industries Association.

Any one occupying the position of the Governor of Bengal must always welcome an opportunity which brings him into touch with the business community, in the most important business centre in India. The interests and prosperity of business in this Presidency must be of primary concern to Government.

It is my pleasing duty to propose the toast of the Motor Industries Association and the prosperity of your Industry, and this I can do with all sincerity. I find myself to-night in the unusual position of making my remarks without, as generally happens, having heard a speech which usually gives me a lead and, as in this case, would inform me how you are feeling and what your particular complaints are, if any. Judging by appearances you appear to be fairly healthy and happy, but I am going to assume that you have one or two complaints, otherwise I shall be short of material.

The production and the distribution of motor vehicles hold a very important place in the business world to-day. These industries have developed at a great pace and the scientific and technical achievement which has enabled the production of the present motor vehicles at a price within the

reach of the million is astounding. The motor vehicle for private, public and business purposes is to-day a necessity. In India, the industry can still be regarded as in its early stages of development and the possibilities for the future can hardly be estimated. But a few years ago the motor industry in Bengal was in its infancy—a small but promising child. To-day it has grown into a strapping young man, healthy and vigorous. He has been well fed with suitable diet from various European countries and America. In spite of customs duty and a four anna tax on his spirits, to which has been added a further two annas for the purpose of providing suitable means for exercise, he continues to thrive. The young man has a knowledge of French, Italian, a little German and is a master of English, though, with a very decided American accent. Perhaps, he will grow out of this later on.

The rate of development is well indicated by the fact that in 1921-22 the number of motor cars imported into India was 2,895. In 1928-29 the total was 19,567 and the total number of motor vehicles registered in British India up to March 1929 is 1,72,680. This rate of expansion has been phenomenal and its continuance must I think depend largely upon the development of facilities in the shape of roads suitable for the use of motor vehicles.

Perhaps, I may anticipate in one or two directions the speech of the Chairman. It seems possible that he may indicate what he considers necessary to enable motor industries to discharge their useful functions in the interests of man and commerce and to contribute to the general prosperity of the State. I feel he may refer to roads and possibly taxation.

It is obvious that one of the greatest necessities for the development of your industry is roads—good roads and plenty of them, and he may also tell us that the industry is prepared to submit willingly to the exaction of an equitable contribution from it to attain this end, and he may rightly point out that good communications are an equal necessity to the general development and prosperity of the community. I think it might be held that Government would be failing in a proper appreciation of their responsibility, if they did not recognise this truth and do all they can to encourage a cheap, safe and rapid means of transport.

I think I can assure you that my Government do recognise this truth and are anxiously desirous to do everything they can with the very limited and inadequate resources at their disposal.

You may reasonably expect me to say something as to Government's intentions in regard to the Road Fund which is to be created from the revenue which will accrue from the additional two anna tax on petrol lately imposed. It is a little difficult for me to give any definite indication in view of our lack of any final knowledge of the ultimate intentions of the Government of India. A Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly has been constituted to control expenditure from this fund, and if distribution proceeds generally in accordance with the intentions which the Government of India appear to have framed, and our own programme is approved, we may expect a grant of about 9 or 10 lakhs per annum from this fund for expenditure on selected roads, mainly arterial. It is I think advisable that I should utter a word of warning, in

view of the exaggerated expectations which appear to exist from this source. The fund which may be at our disposal, as you will appreciate, will enable us to touch only a fringe of the problem of road development in Bengal. It will be difficult to select roads which will secure assistance, and these must be decided solely from the point of view of general advantage and utility. It is impossible to state now what roads in Bengal will be considered eligible for a grant, from the Fund. One thing I fear is certain that many of the roads about which we receive periodical complaints may have to wait longer than local people will appreciate. Nine or even 10 lakhs a year can very easily be spent on construction and repair in Bengal without the effect being very appreciable.

A Provincial Road Board has been constituted. This Board will advise on the programme prepared by the Local Government which will be submitted to the Government of India in support of their claim for a grant from the Central Road Fund.

My Government are anxious that the constitution of this Board should carry confidence in all quarters and they would welcome assistance from representatives of the interests in motor transport in this Presidency.

When I first came to Bengal and saw something of the roads, I asked if there was a Road Fund similar to that in England and which, as you know, has been created out of taxation of motor power. I admit I was astonished to hear that the roads in Bengal received no assistance from the Central Government and that none of the four anna tax on petrol came back for the roads.

You all know the conditions of the finance of this Presidency. We cannot do anything like what we consider necessary for the ordinary development of our communications without external assistance: but to do the best we can, is a matter which must demand our continuous consideration.

I see Mr. Moberly and Sir Charles Tegart are to speak later on. I will leave it to them to satisfy you on any other questions which I have missed. I hope Sir Charles will be able to assure that control of the traffic in Calcutta, which will avoid the application to Calcutta of the reputation, which I understand London is fast acquiring, of being the city of—"be quick or you are dead".

It now only remains for me to assure you of our best wishes and sympathetic interest in the progress of your industry. I ask you, Ladies and Gentlemen, to rise and drink success and prosperity to the Motor Industries Association coupled with the name of Mr. Rostron.

His Excellency's Speech at the Annual Meeting of the Tuberculosis Association (Dalhousie Institute), on 18th February 1930.

GENTLEMEN,

I am pleased to be with you to-day when you present your first Annual Report of the Tuberculosis Association of Bengal.

I have studied the Report with interest and am glad to see that you appear to have made some satisfactory progress. There is no question that Bengal offers a most important field for your laudable endeavours. I can understand your regarding the problem as herculean, as the enemy you are attacking is so strongly entrenched and supported by ignorance and lack of appreciation of the necessity of sanitation and hygiene. These difficulties can only be surmounted by education not only of the poorest but also of every one as to the real state of affairs at present existing.

In the countries of the temperate zone tuberculosis has long been recognised as one of the most deadly of all diseases and as a result in these countries strenuous attempts have been made to combat and prevent it. But in hot countries it is often imagined that tubercle is less prevalent and thus the prevention of this infection has not as yet been taken up very seriously. Moreover, in these countries the frequent appearance of acute and fatal epidemics of cholera, plague and other tropical diseases has up to the present claimed all attention.

Nevertheless, it is at last beginning to be recognised that in tropical and semi-tropical lands the menace of tubercle is just as great or even greater than in Europe, though it comes less to notice.

Dr. Roesle, an eminent Medical authority in Germany, points out that the recorded tubercle death-rate of Calcutta for 1926 was as high as 24.4 per 10,000. The death-rate in Germany for the years 1921-25 was 13.1 and for Great Britain 10.8, much lower in each case than that for Calcutta. I have ascertained that the deaths reported during last year from Phthisis (tuberculosis of the lungs) in Calcutta and Howrah, respectively, were 2591 and 253. It is generally accepted among medical men that for every death that occurs from tuberculosis there are at least 10 other persons suffering at the same time from the disease; some put the figure at double this. These figures show that a movement for the prevention of tuberculosis is badly wanted and make it quite obvious that the Tuberculosis Association of Bengal has been established to meet a pressing need. It is interesting to note that in all countries the preventive work in connection with Tuberculosis has been of a voluntary character, and active work against Tuberculosis is organised and controlled by the National Tuberculosis Associations which now exist in every civilised country.

Tuberculosis Associations besides organising active measures against tuberculosis do an immense amount of good by teaching the general public, arousing their interest, and raising funds in various ways. It appears to me that the best work that can be done is through education.

Tuberculosis dispensaries are the foundation of ante-tuberculosis prevention work. They provide for the examination of suspected cases, the accurate diagnosis of cases by bacteriological methods and X-rays and for the follow-up work carried out, by health visitors attached to the dispensary, who teach the patients and their friends the hygiene of tuberculosis prevention. Besides this, Tuberculosis dispensaries act as clearing houses for tuberculosis hospitals, and sanatoria: the work in Calcutta has already attracted the assistance of eminent men and women: the work of the Association is well organised and well looked after. I commend it as being worthy of public confidence and support.

His Excellency's Speech at the Annual Meeting of Calputta Committee of the Kalimpong Homes on 19th February 1930.

GENTLEMEN,

I am very pleased to attend your annual meeting this evening. The report of the last year appears to show that the affairs of the Homes have progressed in the usual satisfactory manner. All connected with the Homes continue their labours with enthusiasm and devotion under the ever inspiring lead of Dr. Graham. Every one must admire those who have devoted their lives to such work as is undertaken at Kalimpong. Their remuneration is small in comparison to the value of their work and I am glad to hear that you are considering the possibility of providing a retiring allowance.

We have heard of the munificent bequest which has come to you under the will of the late Sir Robert Laidlaw in the interests of education and training of the most needy children of European descent. Sir Robert was a man of great experience and vision and his bequest indicates a confidence in your methods and in your management—and especially in Dr. Graham. Such an expression of confidence in such a man should inspire others in their support.

I can appreciate the danger of would-be supporters, though not real enthusiasts, thinking you have all you need for your work, but it will be

unfortunate if such a mistake is made. You need all the money available and you need specially the knowledge that your work is appreciated by the support of the many and not the few. You gather in money in various ways, not the least successful appears to be by heather day and the fête, when the electrical enthusiasm of "Buntie and Betty" produces an effect almost equal to that of their fathers.

I am glad to hear that the Scout movement is worked to its full advantage at the Homes. I cannot imagine any education more suited to the class of children you are dealing with and the conditions of life they must be called upon to pursue after they leave the Homes, than one based upon self-reliance, self-help, self-control, consideration for others—which are the principles upon which the Scout movement is founded.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Yorkshire
Society's Dinner on 21st February
1930.***

GENTLEMEN,

It is indeed agreeable for Lady Jackson and myself to be at this dinner to-night and to find ourselves amongst our own folk from Yorkshire, and I also appreciate the honour of being asked to respond to the Toast which you have so happily proposed. It is my privilege to attend many functions in Calcutta and I always feel I receive a measure of sympathy which I consider might be extended to a Governor of such a Presidency as Bengal, but in such a gathering as I see to-night I feel justified in expecting a double dose.

You, Sir, have remarked that the activities of the Society have been somewhat restricted during the last year owing to shortage of funds. I admit, I am surprised to hear it. This state of affairs may I think be reasonably expected in a newly formed Society, but we all hope the phase will soon pass and that we shall find ourselves upon a sound financial basis and in a flourishing condition. Until this position is attained, I hope no one will be satisfied. This evening's gathering augurs well for the future.

I am glad to hear that our friends from Lancashire are emulating our example. This should create an interesting situation and a friendly rivalry which will encourage us to show which rose is the best and sweetest. Anyhow, the Yorkshire Society

in Calcutta, in general usefulness and position will be second to none.

I noted that you desisted from discussing at length the various services rendered by Yorkshiremen throughout the length and breadth of the 'Empire.' Being a good Yorkshireman, endowed I hope with that virtue which made you hesitate to develop the subject, I propose to follow your example—but for the benefit of our guests, who are not so fortunately placed as ourselves, I feel justified in asserting that results prove that Yorkshiremen have played a great part with considerable credit in the building up and administration of the numerous parts which to-day compose the British Empire and that they are always prepared to share with the County of their birth any success or honour which has come their way.

You reminded us to-night that the Viceroy and two Presidency Governors in India are Yorkshiremen. I hear that when I was appointed to Bengal, a friend in Yorkshire expressed his surprise by saying "what you are going to Bengal for the Lord only knows." He was probably right in his surmise.

I have no doubt that all Yorkshiremen closely follow the work of the Viceroy. All must recognise his difficulties and his untiring efforts to surmount them and he is gradually accomplishing this with considerable success. I know you will all join in an expression of sympathy and encouragement to Lord Irwin in his great responsibility.

In these times of ever-changing circumstances, the Viceroy must be liable to criticism from some

quarters whatever he does, but no criticism is likely to divert Lord Irwin from the path which he believes to be right and likely to assist towards a solution of the most difficult problem which confronts the British Empire at this time. We are passing through difficult and somewhat anxious times. I hope there will be no serious challenge to the authority of Government and the Law. No just cause can expect benefit in the long run from such a course of action. The acceptance of the offer of discussion generously afforded is the one most likely to lead to a speedy and satisfactory settlement of the complex problems which must be dealt with in the near future.

News from Yorkshire appears to indicate that all goes fairly well, though in work and in play most of us here to-night can remember the days when we were more satisfied with the position. However, we cannot expect to be always at the top and adversity has generally proved an incentive to the exhibition of those qualities of perseverance and determination to succeed which in the past Yorkshiresmen have shown they possess. We all like to remember episodes which demonstrate those characteristics of frankness and native wisdom for which Yorkshiresmen have gained some renown.

Yorkshiresmen have proved themselves capable administrators not only in Empire work, but in the political world in England and in the Counties and Cities. Many of us have no doubt been interested from time to time in the discussions in City Councils in Yorkshire. The debates were often amusing and sometimes rather heated. On one occasion a member had met with disappointment that his views on a

certain question were not unanimously accepted and he expressed his disappointment by asserting that half the Council were fools !

In responding to the toast you have so admirably proposed I wish, on behalf of the Society, to express our gratitude to you and your Committee, and to Mr. Briggs for all the trouble and the time he spent in promoting its success, and to assure you of our confidence and support. We ought to have a Yorkshire Society in Calcutta and it ought to prove a pleasure and a credit to us Yorkshiremen. I should like to assure you of my own personal interest and of any assistance that I can give you.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Upvalling
of the Statue of Rai Sita Nath Roy
Bahadur on 25th February 1930.***

GENTLEMEN,

About 9 years ago one of my predecessors, Lord Ronaldshay, presided over a public meeting which was convened for the purpose of doing honour to the memory of the late Rai Sita Nath Roy Bahadur. To-day I greatly appreciate the honour of being invited to unveil the memorial, which has taken shape in the form of this statue. I am pleased to lend the assistance of my official position to the occasion and also to respond to the invitation of Raja Janaki Nath Roy for whom I have a great regard.

Unfortunately I cannot claim to have had personal acquaintance with the late Rai Bahadur. All of you here to-day probably knew him intimately and the presence of so many eminent citizens of Calcutta indicates your respect and regard for his life and services and your approval that they should be suitably commemorated. But I am well acquainted with his record which undoubtedly stamps him as one of Bengal's most eminent sons. From his childhood he was impelled by a natural impulse to succeed, not merely for his own benefit and personal comfort, but in order that he might be able, by example and action, to help others and serve his country. The Rai Bahadur was a prominent figure in the world of commerce, and whilst consolidating the fortunes of his family in this direction, his integrity and ability earned for him the respect and

esteem of all classes in the business world with which he was brought in contact. For many years of the latter part of his life he rendered conspicuous services in the Legislative Councils, both Provincial and Imperial. He served in the Corporation of Calcutta, in the Port Trust, Improvement Trust and was Sheriff of the city. It seems but right that these activities should be brought back to our memory on such an occasion as this. But beyond these services he will always be remembered as a man of a most generous and kind-hearted disposition. His charitable bequests and his support of all kinds of objects of public utility are not likely to be forgotten. He had a strong and deep-rooted religious instinct, from which he drew his inspiration for his conduct in life. Men come and go through life leaving various impressions behind them. To most credit may be given for endeavouring to live useful lives and by example and precept to leave the world a little better than they found it. To few is it permitted to be endowed with the advantages of wealth, ability, character, wisdom and human kindness which the Rai Bahadur enjoyed, and which he wisely and unstintingly devoted to the benefit of his country and its people.

In unveiling this statue I wish to congratulate the artist. I commit it to the care of the public and commend it as a fitting memorial of a man, whose high character and conduct in life deserve the respect and emulation of the generations to come.

***His Excellency's speech at the Calcutta
Trades' Association Dinner on 28th
February 1930,***

GENTLEMEN,

It is a great pleasure for me to be with you to-night when you celebrate the completion of a 100 years of vigorous life of the Calcutta Trades Association and I appreciate the honour of proposing the Toast of its continued health and prosperity. The centenary celebration of such an Association as yours must be an interesting and important occasion. It proves that the object of our veneration has lived a good, healthy and useful life and we offer our congratulations to your Association on a century of steady constructive work. An innings of a century is generally a source of satisfaction. In making its 100, your Association has played a good innings and we now wish it the best of luck on proceeding to make its second hundred.

Your Association is, I believe, the oldest body connected with trades in India, as it is also the oldest public body in this city. I read an interesting history of your Association in the 'Statesman' last Sunday in which its origin and work during the last 100 years were reviewed. I was interested to see that the Association was formed as a result of advice given by one of His Majesty's Judges, who appeared to be rather tired with the amount of work which came his way in the Insolvency Court, owing to the excessive trustfulness of the traders in Calcutta in those days and the easy credit they were

in the habit of allowing. • This was before the days of the hire-purchase system when every one has a motor car, but nobody appears to own one. You took the Judge's advice, which, I believe, has proved to have been sound and useful. I also noticed at the end of the article that amongst the questions that have been before the Association on which the views advanced have prevailed, was the improvement of the emoluments and privileges of the Judges of the High Court. I do not know how long ago this was, but I have no doubt your support, was justified and duly appreciated.

Your Association has played a notable part in the development of this city, not only in furthering those immediate interests for which it was originally formed, but also by the application of its collective wisdom and energy to the problems of administration and policy, which a new and growing commercial city must inevitably present. An Association like yours which can support or condemn by assured combined action, when necessary, must command respect and carry considerable influence. I understand this has proved the strength of Associations such as yours in the past. The trades are a very important section of any community. Calcutta would not get on without its shops and the innumerable articles of daily necessity which they supply. We must regard you as a necessity and I am sure I rightly express the feelings of many here to-night, and certainly of all your customers, when I assure you that they are always mindful of how much they owe you. The greatness of this city of Calcutta has been founded and built on trade, which has been fostered and sustained by the adoption of sound

principles and by the courage and vision of your community. In the early days, the struggle to establish business must have been a hard one, needing great perseverance and endurance. Many are here whose fathers started their business under such conditions. It was necessary to create confidence amongst customers by proving the sacredness of contract, and that fair dealing and honesty was your policy: a reputation for integrity is an invaluable asset and, when rigidly adhered to, has created and established large businesses on firm foundations. It appears to me that not the least important function of your Association is a careful and watchful interest in questions of political importance. You have wisely given the benefit of your business training and experience to the Municipal administration of this city, and on many occasions in the past the interest which your Association and its members have taken in public affairs has been gratefully acknowledged by the Government of the day.

Your Association comprises representatives of a class which have consistently taken an active part in the development and working of the liberal institutions of its own country. You are in a position to bring the judgment of ripe experience upon how the prosperity and welfare of the community can be affected by various legislative measures that are enacted. Your criticisms and advice therefore should always be valued and your active co-operation welcomed by Government. The necessity of your interest and activity in the administration of this City and Presidency is not likely to be less in the future than it has been in the past.

The development of democratic institutions lays greater responsibilities upon the individual citizen, and it is necessary for each of us to make a real effort to understand the problems of the day not only as they affect ourselves and our own interests, but as they affect the infinite variety of our fellow-citizens. I believe that the community which you so worthily represent can make a contribution of inestimable value to the political development of this country in which you spend the best part of your lives, and that contribution will be increased by the individual application to its problems of the knowledge and experience which members of your Association should possess. A true understanding of the problems with which I and my Government are faced cannot but lead to the establishment of a closer sense of sympathy and confidence between us, which is in all respects most desirable.

When refreshing my memory recently as to the past activities of your Association, I noticed that among the subjects of your earliest representations were "difficulties with the customs" and "piracy on the Hooghly." The juxta-position of these two subjects is doubtless accidental. Piracy has I believe disappeared, but it is still the common lot of most of us to criticise and occasionally curse Customs. I must not dwell upon this subject or I shall be reminded that it is not primarily the concern of the Local Government, but I shall be excused if I remark that an article which cost two shillings in London seems dear at Rs. 3 in Calcutta. This must be due to other causes than what is termed legitimate profit.

I must thank you again for the opportunity of meeting you to-night and joining in your centenary celebration. I regret that your Master, Mr. Norton, is not with us, but I trust that he will return from his leave fully restored to health and be able to resume those responsibilities in which you, Mr. Chairman, so ably deputise. Your Association has a past of which it may well be proud; a greater future lies before you. I wish you all success and assure you of my personal and my Government's deep interest in your welfare.

Gentlemen, I ask you to drink to the prosperity of the Calcutta Trades Association.

His Excellency's Speech at the Annual Meeting of the Young Men's Christian Association on 10th March 1930.

GENTLEMEN,

I welcome the opportunity afforded to me to-day of attending the annual meeting of the Young Men's Christian Association, Calcutta, and of meeting the organising staff and also some of those whose sympathy and support have done so much to make it a living force in this city.

The principles on which your work is based, and the objectives which it holds before it, are well known and generally approved, and the report of your work in this city during the year 1929 is a testimony to the needs which the Association has done so much to supply.

On reading the Report one is struck not only by the variety of interests to which the Young Men's Christian Association endeavours to direct the energy of youth, but also by the necessity for supporting your efforts to increase and expand these activities.

Your report shows that while much is being done, there are countless opportunities for expansion, which lack of funds unfortunately prevents you from accepting. This is a position of which I have good reason to know the irksomeness, and it is my earnest hope that means will be placed at your disposal to help you to exploit your efforts to the full. I notice that although you received the considerable sum of Rs. 23,102 in subscriptions, this represents less than one-tenth of your expenditure, the remainder being found by the internal resources of your Association. When you go so far to help

yourselves in the cause of youth, you can well expect to receive an even greater measure of support from the public.

Your work in India is not always easy—nor the voyage plain sailing. You have to face criticism—sometimes not too kind. It generally emanates from quarters not properly informed. You will naturally avoid unnecessary controversial matters and direct your efforts to those objects and principles which have been so clearly laid down in the past. On these lines I feel sure you will proceed from strength to strength. We are not infrequently told that the youth of the nation are its hope for the future. If in the future the youth of this city and of India are to play their part well in the increased privileges and corresponding responsibilities which they will most certainly have to face, the efforts of the Young Men's Christian Association to establish good fellowship and create good citizenship are surely of incalculable importance.

Your various activities provide an interesting study. By lectures, physical training, organised games, libraries and clubs, your workers seek to direct, extend and elevate the employment of the leisure time of our young men. That this is done in a spirit of service and finds a like response, is evident not only from the activity of special service groups in such matters as nursing and jail visiting, but in the assistance which, I am glad to see, you receive from so many voluntary workers. They deserve our very sincere gratitude and thanks. The attention which you have devoted to physical education on correct principles and to organised games is of special interest to me and I am sorry to

hear that your Physical Director, Mr. Earl, has not been replaced.

As I have remarked on a similar occasion before, I am a great believer in the value of bringing together young people in friendly rivalry in games. It teaches a spirit of good-will and co-operation and is indeed under modern conditions a most effective method of bringing out and developing that character which is the foundation of good citizenship. In sports and games, as in other matters, there is a right and wrong way of doing things and for them to exercise their full beneficial effect, trained supervision and instruction, is essential. If your Association can provide this and it has shown that it can, in that respect alone it will be filling an urgent need.

There have been changes in your staff such as all large organizations are liable to, and in particular the Young Men's Christian Association in Calcutta sustained a serious loss when Mr. F. E. James left us in 1928 for other work in Madras. I feel, however, that you are fortunate in obtaining the services of Mr. McCowen as General Secretary and I have no doubt that his experience and organising skill will prove of great value. Your administration is in capable and experienced hands and I feel sure that the Calcutta Young Men's Christian Association will successfully continue its good work and increase in influence.

I believe that your Association has a valuable and definite contribution to make to the social development of this country; and you have my sincerest good wishes for success.

His Excellency's speech at the annual dinner of the Institution of Engineers, Bengal Centre, on 12th March 1930.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,

I cordially welcome the opportunity afforded to me of being present at this dinner this evening and of meeting the members of the Bengal centre of the Institution of Engineers in India.

I am grateful to the President for his reference to myself and I can assure him that however heavy my list of engagements may be, I do not grudge the time which this evening's function occupies. When I had the privilege of dining with you on a former occasion, I mentioned the deep impression which a short acquaintance with the work of the Engineer in this country had already made upon me. With the opportunities which have since been afforded me of going more deeply into the basic problems of the Province, that impression has deepened and widened. There is no profession in India whose progress I watch with keener interest, and I realise more clearly with each year's experience in this Presidency, how much we must rely upon their initiative and constructive skill for our general prosperity and the well-being of the people.

I must thank you, Sir, for the generous manner in which you have proposed the Toast of your Guests and to which I have the privilege to respond. I always feel the responsibility for answering for other people and after such a dinner, I feel quite sure all your guests could individually express their feelings of appreciation better than I can for them, though

at this time of the year, and after such a repast, I think it is a good plan to limit the response to one person, and I will limit myself to giving an assurance that your guests greatly appreciate the generous terms in which you have proposed the Toast and the reception you have accorded to it.

With that modesty becoming one whose name denotes the part of the country of which you should be a native, you professed to bewilderment as to why you are presiding on this occasion. I venture to suggest that apart from the high respect in which you are held personally and professionally, your function as Chief Engineer of the Irrigation Department of the Public Works Department, in this Presidency, casts upon you a responsibility for some of the most difficult and most urgent problems with which we are faced. Long experience and intense study of the river system in this Presidency has enabled you to acquire an exceptional knowledge of its baffling problems. Your authority on this vitally important subject should, I think, fully justify the honour which has been conferred upon you this evening.

Irrigation and Waterways must be of primary concern to every Province in India, where for many months in the year we have much more water than we want and for the rest far too little. The problem of how to regulate or regularise the supply would appear to be your job, and failure to solve the problem, which when stated has a deceptive appearance of simplicity, may occasionally bring you some criticism. But the fact is admitted that in Bengal irrigation is of vital importance and, as you said, there is no Province where the problems dealt with

by the Irrigation Department are so complex. I was glad to hear that you have hopes that as a result of the investigations of the Committee of eminent engineers whom the Government were fortunate to obtain to advise them on the reorganisation of the Irrigation Department, we may receive assistance and guidance as to how best to tackle the problems in the immediate and general interest of the Province and its people. It is my intention and that of my Government, to do everything in our power to assist our Irrigation Engineers to apply their energy to these problems in the manner best calculated to enable them to utilise them to the full and to show concrete results.

Another subject in your speech to which I listened with great interest was the assistance you endeavoured to give to the young Engineers who join your Institution as students. Your Institution can render no better service. The benefit to be gained by young Engineers from men of great practical experience, must be invaluable. Your efforts in this direction deserve every encouragement from Government.

I had the pleasure of visiting Messrs. Burn & Co.'s Works last week when I met a considerable number of student apprentices and was glad to hear from the Manager that they were making good progress, and they all seemed keen and hopeful. I should indeed welcome the knowledge that similar opportunities are being offered to the youth of Bengal in many directions.

Another subject you referred to was one which I thought at such a gathering as this you might have some difficulty in avoiding.

I remember in one of the first speeches I made in Calcutta when I did not know quite as much as I do to-day—I referred with all seriousness to the Bridge across the Hooghly and mentioned that the present bridge appeared to be the same which I was told was to be replaced by a more suitable structure when I was in India 35 years before.

However, I do not think I had better dwell upon this venerable subject this evening. I have called a meeting of those directly responsible for making recommendations for this week-end. But one prediction I will venture to make. If the trade in this city and its environments upon the Hooghly is to progress, as I think it should in the next 20 or 30 years, it will be necessary to consider not one nor two, but possibly three means of communication, by bridge or tunnel across the river.

There is I believe no insuperable engineering difficulty as regards construction, but you will always be faced with the exceptional difficulties of this Tidal river, and as you are aware—stagnant finance.

When one thinks of the traffic on the bridge to-day, and five years ago it was calculated that 15,000 vehicles passed over it in 24 hours—figures which must now be increased by at least 20 per cent., one can only stand in amazement that the old structure does its work.

As long as it stands up under the terrific strain, we can carry on, but the results of a possible accident are too serious to contemplate with complacency. However, I can say to-night, with safety but with regret, that I do not expect to cross the

new Bridge before I leave Bengal. The question has got beyond a joke—it is indeed serious. I feel we must not allow a few lakhs of recurring expenditure to stand in the way of doing what is obviously the right thing. Misjudged economy can prove an extravagance in the long run.

The changes which follow one another with staggering rapidity affecting all branches of the Engineering world must tax your capacity to keep up with them. In every direction the old must give way to the new.

Once again let me tender for myself and on behalf of my fellow guests our very sincere thanks for the hospitality which you have offered us and the very kind manner in which you have drunk our health. We join you, Mr. President, in a very sincere regret that Mr. Alexander is not with us to-night and hope that his anxiety may be speedily relieved. We wish you all every personal happiness and prosperity and even greater professional triumphs in the future than you have had in the past.

***His Excellency's Speech at the prize
distribution of the Calcutta Blind School
on 14th March 1930.***

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

There are surely none who can contemplate the affliction of the blind, without feelings of the deepest sympathy and this, I must confess, was uppermost in our minds when Lady Jackson and I set out to visit the Calcutta Blind School this afternoon. Yet when we take leave of you we shall carry away with us two main impressions, one of encouragement and hope inspired by the manner in which the pupils of the Calcutta Blind School are learning and have learnt to surmount their difficulties, and one of thankfulness, not only for the example of cheerful courage and grit which they set us all, but also to the founder, organizers and staff of this institution for the heroic work which they are so devotedly carrying out.

The report for 1929 which I have listened to with much pleasure and interest, gives us a story of solid work and practical progress in every direction and breathes the very spirit of self-help in a work where such a spirit is of prime importance. I am particularly glad to hear that in maltricious surroundings you have been able to keep this scourge under control, and have done so by methods which may well serve as a model to your less enterprising neighbours. From what I have observed of the precincts of the School this afternoon, I am not surprised at your success. Orderliness, cleanliness, fresh air and sun-light are the handmaidens of

beauty and of health and I congratulate you on the demonstration which the school provides that here health and beauty walk hand in hand. You have rightly devoted attention to organised physical culture, and it is to me a great source of satisfaction to see how much your pupils have profited, by the opportunity afforded them, of learning and taking part in those manly sports and exercises which should form a part of everyone's life and training. The display this afternoon not only showed careful instruction and supervision, but was marked by that alertness and cheerful enthusiasm on the part of the pupils that indicates that their hearts were in the game. To one who like myself has enjoyed the advantages of games it is indeed gratifying to see these children sharing pleasures which, but for this institution, they might never have experienced.

The instances which we have been given of the success of old pupils of this school in after life, and the manner in which it has been found possible to give them a start in life in various careers, show that the principles of the training given here are sound and practical, and the teaching good.

A particularly moving feature of your report, in my opinion is the work that is being undertaken to train teachers for other blind schools. Few could blame this school, if they devoted their attention solely to the material benefit of their own pupils. It is an example of the spirit of the blind that they are taking their part to help their fellows.

Another important feature is the teaching of handicrafts. This not only gives the pupils the necessary training in manual dexterity, but provides

them with a potential source of income as well as assisting the resources of the school. I was much impressed with the examples of the work which I have seen this afternoon and this branch of your activities deserves every support.

I am glad to gather from the report that your finances are in a satisfactory condition and I can understand the need of an expanding income to enable you both to extend the scope of your work on lines already flourishing and to enter upon new projects such as the extension of your land, the establishment of a dairy and the erection of a hostel. I can well understand that efficient after-care work is also a real necessity to ensure that the fullest results of your training are realised by boys and girls when they leave.

You have in the past received practical evidence of the interest which my Government takes in your school, and all that it is doing, and you may feel assured of my personal sympathy and the continued interest of Government in the future. That the generous public will help you to attain your desires I have no doubt, indeed I cannot imagine that any one can view your work without feeling an immediate desire to help you. For myself I shall be pleased to order a donation of Rs. 200 to be placed at the disposal of the Governors.

The work begun by the late Mr. L. B. Shah of revered memory in this place has more than once been publicly acknowledged.

To the Chief Justice who has this work so much at heart and to the Court of Governors we are also very greatly indebted.

The Principal and staff are doubtless, like all good workers, not satisfied with achievement, but anxious to press forward to further heights. They may take credit to themselves that they are finely carrying on the tradition of a noble founder and that all here to-day would wish to thank them for their labours and wish them God speed in their endeavours.

I must thank you on behalf of Lady Jackson and myself for the very kind welcome which you have extended to us. It has been a great pleasure to us to visit this school and to watch and listen to pupils who have so charmingly entertained us. Their brightness and courage are gifts of priceless value.

I trust that your good work may continue to prosper and may the blessing of Almighty God rest upon your labours.

***His Excellency's Address to the Members
of the Legislative Council on 25th
March 1930.***

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,

I must first express my regret at being unable to attend the Council last Friday as had been arranged, and I apologise for any inconvenience which the change, quite unavoidable, may have caused you, Sir, and Members of the Council.

It was my intention to avail myself of my privilege of addressing this Council when it met in February last. At that time, however, owing to the resignation of a large number of members necessitating bye-elections to fill their seats, I decided to wait until the Council had returned to normal conditions. To-day all constituencies throughout the Presidency are represented and I would like to welcome the newly elected members of the Council who have recently been admitted to its privileges and responsibilities, and to express a hope that the work will prove of satisfaction to themselves, and beneficial to their constituencies and to the general interest of the people of Bengal.

Circumstances have made it necessary for me to ask you to meet me this afternoon, and the importance of the statement I wish to make must be my excuse for this intrusion on the time of the Council when it is so busily engaged in important discussion on the Budget.

I think that I should preface my remarks by a brief reference to the debate which took place last

Thursday when the demand for Ministers' salaries was before you. In pursuance of the assurance given to the House on that occasion, the Chief Secretary has placed before me the speeches which were made in that debate and I have carefully read them. In the short time at my disposal, I have already been able to hear personally the views of some of the members who spoke on that occasion, but this Council will, I am sure, appreciate that the situation created by its action is an unusual one and will require the most careful consideration after due consultation with my advisers and those directly concerned. The composition of the House has no doubt been considerably affected through the resignations at the beginning of the year and by the election of new members to fill those places, and I welcome what I believe to be the sincere desire of this House to work the constitution in a really constructive spirit. I feel sure, however, that you will recognise that the question which has been raised is one which cannot and ought not to be disposed of in haste, and that you will accept my assurance that the views expressed are having my closest attention and will receive full consideration. The responsibility which I as Governor have to bear in the selection and appointment of Ministers is a very grave one, and I am not in a position to-day to make any pronouncement beyond the assurance which I have just given you. I may be permitted to add that I shall spare no effort to examine the situation in the light not only of my responsibilities but also of my obligations and to reach a solution which will be in the best interests of the Province.

As you are no doubt all aware, the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1925 under a clause limiting its operation to five years is due to expire on April 23rd this year. I need not recount here the serious emergency which caused the Government of Bengal to arm themselves with the special powers provided by this Act, but my Government have had to decide on the knowledge in their possession, and after a prolonged and careful review of the situation at this time, what their attitude should be towards the surrender of those powers, consequent upon the approaching expiry of the Act. After anxious thought my Government have decided not to propose, on the facts at present before them, the continuance of that part of the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act which grants to the Executive power of arrest, and detention without trial. These powers were framed to deal with revolutionary organizations which have for their object violence and assassination. A revolutionary movement which sets these aims before itself is still in active operation in Bengal, though its more serious manifestations, in the shape of definite outrages, have not recently been prominent. But for the last three years it has been possible to keep the situation under control without fresh recourse to them. My Government have desired to do everything they could to seek, in co-operation with Indian opinion, a solution of our present difficulties, and they are therefore reluctant to invite the legislature to continue in existence powers, the occasion for the use of which we must all deplore. They sincerely trust that no emergency will necessitate their resumption, but they cannot conceal from themselves the possibility that such an

emergency might again arise which might make it essential for them to be in possession of these powers. They have accordingly been in communication with the Government of India on this matter and I am authorised to state that the Governor-General in Council, and His Majesty's Government, if they are satisfied of the existence of such an emergency, will be prepared to approve the necessary steps for securing these powers to my Government again.

In these circumstances, therefore, my Government will immediately place before you a Bill for the repeal of those sections which provide for detention without trial, and I allot Tuesday the 1st April as the day on which, in the ordinary course, discussion of this Bill will be taken up.

I would now refer to those sections which provide for the trial of offences and which are embodied in sections 3 to 10 of the Act. My Government do not feel justified in recommending the abandonment of the powers defined in these sections, which provide for the appointment of Commissioners to try specific offences, and they will place before this House legislation for their continuance. An examination of the use which has been made of these sections cannot but lead to the conclusion, that this form of procedure has in every case been applied with scrupulous discrimination solely to the trial of persons for specific acts of a terrorist nature, while even in dealing with that class of offence it has been applied with marked restraint. The provisions which it is proposed to continue will, you have my assurance, be applied in like manner in the

future. Our first object at this time must be to remove any obstacle to the ordered political progress of this Province. The terrorist has no belief, or faith, in constitutional agitation or in the efficacy of political leaders, however great their reputation or advanced their views. As a class the terrorist now, as always, pins his faith on violence as being the only method which will crown his efforts with success, and it is only if he knows that outrages will certainly and immediately be followed by swift and condign punishment, that he places a curb on his activities. While on the one hand, the procedure prescribed by the ordinary law has been found unsuitable to secure the administration of justice and the protection of the community against such persons, on the other the procedure prescribed in the sections of the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, to which I have referred, has been found to provide an expeditious and I think fair mode of trial and, as you are aware, the supplementary Act provides, and will continue to provide, for an appeal to the High Court from the decision of the Commissioners.

I personally welcome the decision which my Government have found themselves able to take for the repeal of those sections providing for detention without trial. I feel that the disappearance of those sections should remove a source of difficulty which has been experienced by men of all classes in supporting Government in their efforts to deal with terrorist crime. I trust that no occasion will arise to compel us to resort to them again. I do, however, earnestly commend to you the retention for a further period of five years, of the special

procedure for the trial of offences by Commissioners appointed under the Act and I look with some confidence to this House to support me in this matter. I feel satisfied that the retention of these sections is not only necessary, but should be some guarantee against a fresh recourse to those provisions which it is now proposed to repeal and the disappearance of which from the Statute Book cannot but be a source of satisfaction.

I thank you, gentlemen, for your attendance here to-day and trust that your labour may be directed by Divine Providence to the lasting benefit of this Province and its inhabitants.

His Excellency's Speech at the Annual General Meetings of the St. John Ambulance Association and the Indian Red Cross Society, Bengal Centre, on 25th March 1930.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It has been a great pleasure to me to welcome the Governing Bodies of the St. John Ambulance Association and the Red Cross Society at Government House this evening and to have been able once more to preside at your Annual General Meeting.

I have listened to the reports with very great interest and once again I think we may say that both the Association and the Society can be congratulated on a year of useful work and steady progress.

At the annual meeting last year I referred to the proposal to establish first-aid stations at suitable points. I understand that there has been delay in proceeding with this scheme, owing to the difficulty of obtaining a suitable attendant for the first of these stations. I hope, however, that this difficulty will be overcome and that in the near future we shall see one of these stations in full working order. Those who like myself took the opportunity of seeing a demonstration of the working of a station in November last, could not fail to be impressed with its usefulness and with the desirability of this practical application of the Association's excellent

training. I have little doubt that the establishment of such stations would do much to bring the Association before the public, and, though I know you do not seek advertisement for advertisement's sake, would soon leave to the Bengal Provincial Branch of the St. John Ambulance Association winning a place in the confidence and affection of the people of this city not inferior to that which it enjoys in London and other great centres of population. I am glad to learn that a new local centre is in the process of formation in the 24-Perganas district and that your work is being taken up with the Port Commissioners' staff and the staff of the Government Printing Press at Alipore.

I can imagine no more useful and really educational method of occupying leisure time than by taking advantage of the facilities afforded by the Association for studying the proper methods of helping our fellow men and women in time of accident or sudden calamity, and I trust that you will receive the support necessary to continue and extend these humane activities.

The Red Cross Society has, I am glad to see, been able not only to maintain its output of literature sent to the troops and money distributed to hospitals, but has opened new District Welfare Centres at Chapra, Ratanpur and Orakandi. I am particularly pleased to hear of the welfare work being carried on and extended in the mills. There is much that can be done with advantage to all concerned in this direction, and I think, I am not far wrong in saying that it is being and will be appreciated as much by the employers as by the staff. I hope that this excellent feature will be emphasised and developed

and you may be assured of my most sincere interest in it and approbation of it.

There can be no doubt that interest in Health Welfare Work is on the increase and if we are sometimes impatient to see mass movements and striking statistical results, we should remind ourselves that only a steady stream of organised demonstration can be expected to create that mass consciousness of a desire for improvement which must precede the big movement. I believe the foundations are being laid for such a movement and for directing it when it comes, and the work of the Red Cross Society will be remembered in this connection then.

I feel that my remarks would be incomplete if I failed to express our obligations to your Chairman, Mr. Benthall, who devotes so much of his time and ability to this work. Mrs. Cottle we all know to be an indefatigable worker with her heart in the work. It needs no words of mine to assure her that we recognise how much we owe to her energy and ability, and to the staff who support her.

Finally, let me say that I feel a very real personal interest in and sympathy with the work of the St. John Ambulance Association and the Red Cross Society, and you enter upon another year of work, and I hope, of progress and expansion, with my sincerest good wishes.

